

GOSPEL MEDITATION: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A few years into my priesthood, I hit a wall. I had taken on too many commitments: Masses, meetings, ministries, projects. I couldn't keep up. I was double-booking, forgetting things, running late, and letting people down. My boss at the time, a wise priest, and our shared secretary, noticed. For my birthday, the two gave me a stack of 100 flashcards, each with one word printed in a different language: "NO." It was funny, but also painfully true. If I couldn't say no, my yes was in danger.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says, "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the Evil One" (Matthew 5:37). He's not just giving advice about polite speech. He's showing us something about the freedom of Christian discipleship. The follower of Christ is called to speak clearly, simply, and honestly. There is joy in that kind of freedom.

The Church Fathers often linked this kind of straightforward truthfulness with spiritual maturity. The devil is the father of lies, but Jesus is the Word made flesh. When we hedge, flatter, exaggerate, or avoid, we open space for the shadows to creep in. That little stack of flashcards reminded me that God does not want us enslaved to the expectations of others or to the fear of disappointing them. He wants us to enjoy the peace of saying yes and meaning it, and saying no, and meaning it, too.

Lenten Challenge: Practice one moment of honest, peaceful speech this week. Maybe it's a sincere "yes" to something important, or a humble "no" to something you cannot do. Let it be a quiet step into the freedom Jesus offers.

— Father John Muir

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**February 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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,

Welcome, Fr. Forcelle! Whether retired priests across the Diocese or our CFSA support (coming soon), we are greatly blessed in sharing our gifts. I am giving my once a year work on an Engaged Encounter this weekend at St. Lamberts in Sioux Falls. As I write, I am hoping to have a full schedule of Lenten Stations of the Cross, Confessions, and a special 40 Hours Adoration schedule made ready for you to pick up. I'm also hoping at Marty this week to get the painting that was in the small confessional (being made into a restroom) up in the large confessional up front (where you'll now find me for confessions before Sunday Mass). The prompt and abundant support at Dante for Camden's mission trip was a blessing to see; thank you! Wagner's Altar Society at 5:30pm and Parish Council at 7pm meet this Tuesday. ASH WED services are scheduled at

3 different times in Wagner and at 5:15pm in Dante this week! GET YOUR NAME into the box this weekend so that on Ash Wed someone can draw your name, and you draw someone's name, to pray for during Lent!

A number of people are listed as members of SD Right to Life; the tri-county Right to Life plans to have a booth again at the Farm & Home Show and is looking for persons to 'man' the booth on the afternoon of Thurs. March 26. Call me if you can help with this (384-5518). Note this Sunday's 1st reading from Sirach 15 is the classic text on FREE WILL. Even though Jesus' teaching in the Gospel expands the Ten Commandments to even our thoughts and custody of the eyes, it is still within the power of our FREE WILL to keep or break his Word.

Peace,
Fr. Jim



ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE (FEBRUARY 18)

7:45 a.m. - Ash Wednesday Service, St. John's

2:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service, Grey Eagle Apartments

5:15 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Mass, Assumption

6:45 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Mass, St. John's



CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Friday, February 20
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's

Saturday, February 21
4:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, February 22
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: FEBRUARY 15

- ◆ Lent: What Catholics Believe
- ◆ Whole 40
- ◆ Ash Wednesday: Drawing Closer to God



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

VOCATION CAMPS

JPPII Vocation Camp (Guys Ages 12-15)
July 28-31

Camp Goretti (Girls Ages 12-16)
June 1-3

Quo Vadis (Guys Ages 16-22 – For Those Thinking About Priesthood)
July 5-9

WELCOME,
FR. JOE!

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS
Wednesday, February 18
5:30 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

All are invited to join us - we will conclude our session in time for participants to attend Ash Wednesday Mass!

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	February 16	Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time	NO MASS
Tuesday	February 17	Tuesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time/ Seven Founders of the Servite Order	NO MASS
Wednesday	February 18	Ash Wednesday	5:15 p.m. - Assumption 6:45 p.m. - St. John's	Dorothy Dixon † Clara Kafka †
Thursday	February 19	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	10:00 a.m. - GSC	Brady Plucker †
Friday	February 20	Friday after Ash Wednesday	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Dorothy Paulis †
Saturday	February 21	Saturday after Ash Wednesday/ Saint Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	9:00 a.m. - Marty Convent	Oblate Sisters †
		Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Scott McAdaragh †
Sunday	February 22	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Living & Deceased of FCCLA Michael Hanan †

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!

COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART

The Pastorate will use this Prayer Partner Lenten Project to bring people in our parishes together during the season of Lent. Parishioners of all parishes will be asked to complete forms to provide their names, intentions they would like prayed for, and contact information so that identities of prayer partners can be revealed when Lent is over. Look for the forms in the church entryways, pick up and complete the forms, and then drop them into the basket. Names of prayer partners will be drawn on Ash Wednesday.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VALENTINES PARTY
Saturday, February 14
Social Hour Before Meal
Meal: 6:30 p.m.
Wagner American Legion
Tickets: \$50/couple

Tickets may be purchased from Jamie Soukup and David Kocer.



Stations
OF THE CROSS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 p.m. - Assumption
Friday Evenings, 6:00 p.m. - St. John's (After Rosary)

Please watch future bulletins for any updates to the schedule for Stations of the Cross!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

"Serve the Lord with gladness"
-Psalms 100:2

	Wednesday, February 18 5:15 p.m. - Assumption	Wednesday, February 18 6:45 p.m. - St. John's	Saturday, February 21 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, February 22 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, February 22 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Pam Roth	Mieke Slaba/ Judy Barnett	Alice Koupal/ Jim Thornton	Danielle Krcil	Alice
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Pam Roth	Kim Soukup	Ray Soukup	Danielle Krcil	Georgia/ Amy/ Amy
Altar Servers	Ethan Blaha/ Logan Blaha	Clarah Soukup/ Windsor Soukup/ Willow Soukup	McKinley Podzimek/ Jaylee Kafka/ Skyler Kocer	Tom Krcil/ John Krcil	Emma/ Kalea
Music	Emily Walloch	Kara Hanan	Kim Soukup	Micky Hollmann	
Ushers	Matt Hill/ Jaxton Hill	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Greg Krcil/ Frank Krcil	Riley R./ Dave L.
Greeters		Jay & Kim Kafka	Fran Podzimek		Sr. Joan
Gift Bearers	Matt Hill Family	Jeff & Julie Doom	Jay & Kim Kafka Family	Greg Krcil Family	Miles, Keva & Family
Rosary		Don & Theresa Koupal	Ray & Bonnie Soukup		
Sacristan		Don Koupal	Jim Thornton		
Collection Counters		Ray Soukup/ Peggy Eggers	Becky Brunsing/ Cletus Wiechmann	Greg Krcil/ Derek Koupal	Jason/ Ridge

LOOKING AHEAD
Monday, February 16

NO MASS
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Tuesday, February 17

NO MASS
Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's
St. John's Altar Society Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Church Basement
St. John's Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Church Basement

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday)
Service at 7:45 a.m. at St. John's
Service at 2:00 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments
Mass at 5:15 p.m. at Assumption
Daily Rosary at 6:15 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's

Thursday, February 19
Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner GSC/
Daily Rosary Following

Friday, February 20
Mass at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
Adoration & Confessions at 1:30 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
Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's

Saturday, February 21
Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Marty Convent
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, February 22
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

WAGNER-DANTE KC FISH FRY

Friday, March 27
St. John's Church Basement
Watch future bulletins for more details!

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00
February 7 \$3485.10
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amount was also received:
Votive Candle Offerings \$ 45.10
Mass Stipends \$ 70.00

ST. JOHN'S ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

Tuesday, February 17
5:30 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement
Each band is asked to have at least two representatives at the meeting! Please note that there is also a parish council meeting that night.

BOOK STUDY AT ST. JOHN'S

The book parishioners received at Christmas - *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality* - has an accompanying book study guide and would make a very good Lenten study. Please contact Theresa Koupal if you are interested in participating so a date and time for sessions can be determined. This study would involve seven sessions, and there would be no cost to participate.

ADOPT A POINSETTIA

All of the poinsettias have been removed from the sanctuary (in preparation for the season of Lent) and can be picked up for "adoption." They can be picked up in the church entryway. Unclaimed plants will be disposed of after this weekend.

NOTE TO ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS

If you have access to the internet, you will soon be able to access and manage your profile and household and view your giving and pledges. Please watch future bulletins for instructions regarding setting up your account to allow access to your information on Ministry Platform!

LAST COLLAR STANDING

Mark your calendars! The 7th Annual Last Collar Standing game show airs live on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 3-5 p.m. on our YouTube page. Last Collar Standing is an opportunity to raise both awareness of and funds for our diocesan Lumen Christi Missionary Program. The funds raised from this event are used to offset the cost to parishes by over 50%. For information on how to help the program with your contributions, visit <https://sf catholic.org/lumenchristi/lastcollar/>.

DISCOVER WHO JESUS SAYS YOU ARE

An Interactive Lenten Workshop: Journey Through Your Personal Story, Saturday, March 28, from 9-11:30 a.m., at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, 707 W. 4th St. in Sioux Falls. Join The Lourdes Center for a personal exploration of your life story: the good moments, the hard times, the emotional wounds, and the lies we often tell ourselves. Like the wounded man in the parable of the Good Samaritan, we will uncover where Jesus, our compassionate Samaritan, meets us in our suffering and reveals our true identity in his eyes. The workshop will focus on remembering and embracing who Jesus says you are: loved, redeemed and connected to every life. This will include self-reflection, a creative project and chapel/prayer time. Please bring a Bible. Registration is required as space is limited. Cost is \$50. Visit thelourdescenter.com for more information or to register.

RAVANIA FIRE DEPARTMENT FISH FRY

(Drive Through Only)
Friday, February 27
4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
(Or Until Sold Out)
Ravania Fire Station. Ravania
\$10 Per Plate

LENTEIN STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Assumption Parish will be offering a Lenten Study entitled **Life Everlasting: Heaven, Hell, Death, and Judgment**. This study is a five-session mini-study to help you understand what the Catholic Church teaches about death, judgment, heaven, and hell, and why these truths are meant to fill you with hope. Each study session includes a 30 minute video on DVD by Dr. Ed Sri and Dr. Jeff Marrow, along with discussion from the Study Book. Cost of the Study Book will be about \$20.00. The Study will begin on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 1:30 pm at the CCD Center in Dante, and will run for 5 Sundays. Please contact Vicki Roth at blindlady@goldenwest.net or 605-530-3284, if interested.



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish extends heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Elaine Cihak. Mary passed away on Wednesday, February 4. The funeral Mass for Elaine was prayed on Saturday, February 7, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Dante, with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Dante.





Birthdays

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

February 16: Alexa Wunder (A), Conway Koupal (A); February 17: Millie Koupal (A), Shirley Soukup (SJ), Derek Soukup (SJ); February 19: Evianna Blaha (A), Rhett Mathis (SJ); February 20: Russell Stone (A), Catherine Payer (SJ); February 21: John Soukup (SJ), Dorothy Holzbauer (SJ), Madonna Ishmael (SJ).

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



There are no Assumption or St. John's wedding anniversaries this week! Happy Anniversary to St. Paul's parishioners who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week!

BLESSING OF LOVE

Heavenly Father, ignite us with Your love. Reveal to us Your will, guide us in Your path. Pour Your blessings upon us, You who are the giver of every good thing. Help us to live, work, act, and speak in ways that bring honor and glory to You. Amen.

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EVERYDAY STEWARSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

RULES KEEP US IN CHECK

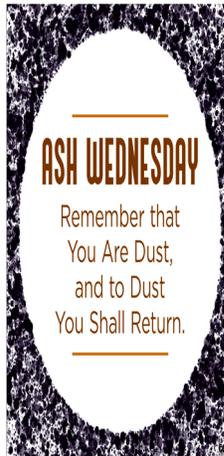
By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I saw a slogan once for an Internet start-up: "There is one rule; there are no rules." In fact, when I searched for this slogan again online, I was surprised at all of the variations on the "no rules" sentiment. Apparently, even Justin Bieber has a documented quote: "I want my world to be fun. No parents, no rules, no nothing. Like, no one can stop me. No one can stop me." Wow. My own kids seldom read my reflections. If they are reading this one, don't get any ideas!

Of course, a society without laws or rules will not exist for very long. The laws of a society are there to protect us from perhaps our greatest enemy: ourselves. We can't just do whatever we feel like. We will eventually hurt others or ourselves. The laws of God and his Church

have the same effect. Sinful and imperfect people need parameters. Christians who choose sin or their own will over God's commandments not only break the relationship they have with their God, but they hurt others and diminish the body of Christ.

A stewardship way of life asks of us to live in a certain manner. We sometimes think that our cultivation of gifts and giving them back with increase to God is for God's sake. God's commands do not benefit God, for God is complete and perfect without need for increase. But this way of life is for the benefit of his creation. There is no power struggle here between a God of rules and his children. The cross bears witness to that. Instead, God's "rules" prevent us from destroying ourselves, and give us a path so we may flourish. Whether you are an ordinary Joe or an ordinary Bieber, following God's commands will lead to the real satisfaction in this gift of life.



PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

THE CARPENTER AND THE LAW

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

My husband and I couldn't believe our luck: our new house had a deck. It was more than a couple of broke millennials had ever dared to dream. Lounging in our patio furniture drinking coffee and watching the cars drive past, we felt like Kennedys at Hyannis Port. We had arrived.

Well, until it started falling apart.

To be fair, my husband knew this was going to happen all along, because he's a person who uses words like "joist" and "weight-bearing" correctly. He took one look at the deck at the open house and knew it wasn't up to code. "We're going to have to reinforce this at some point," he told me. "Whatever!" I replied, daydreaming about twinkle lights and porch parties.

Sure enough, our second summer in the house, he had to rip the rotting surface boards off. The biggest issue was that the joists were too far apart; when we stepped on the boards, they bowed and almost cracked, lacking adequate support beneath. But we weren't going to redo the whole deck — we're not actually Kennedys. We (okay, he) simply ripped the surface boards off, added the necessary joists, and replaced the decking with newer, better, stronger wood.

Simply put, my husband did not come to abolish the deck, but to fulfill it.

The law of Moses was like a good deck, admirably built. You could say "Raqa," your heart filled with anger, and the law didn't break. But that anger treads heavily on boards not adequately supported. Over time, the anger becomes too much to bear. And that board — that law, that heart — it'll break. Just you wait.

And when it does, you'll see why: there wasn't anything beneath, holding it up.

So God sent a Carpenter to reinforce the law. The Carpenter crafted joists from prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance — strong virtues that can withstand a lifetime of battery, if properly maintained.

And the law still holds.

©LP

Readings for the Week of February 15, 2026

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13 Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

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6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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