



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden." - Mt 5:14

GOSPEL MEDITATION: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— Father John Muir

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Holy Apostles

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Apostles Pastorate

Fr. Thomas Clement, Pastor
605-337-3710
Email Address:
frthomasclément@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
parkston@holypostlessd.org

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,

"Lavishly he gives to the poor," we hear in today's Psalm about the just person. We think of justice as a strict balance, to 'give each person his due'. But a more accurate description of Biblical justice is: "to be faithful to the demands of a relationship". For example, one might lend money to a family member and expect no interest. One might give lavishly to another in need because this is a fellow human being, perhaps even of the same family of faith. Keeping score, tit for tat, is not the way to foster relationships, not the way of love; love is our calling.

Get any old palm branches to me this week before I leave on Friday to work Engaged

Encounter; Fr. Joe Forcelle will be here next weekend. This weekend and next weekend are opportunities for you to put your name in for a 'prayer partner'. On Ash Wednesday all who have put in a name can draw a name to pray for during Lent. You can jot down a special intention along with your name to be prayed for by whoever gets your name. Before Masses this weekend we're having the Feb 3 "Blessing of Candles"; after Masses will be a second chance for "Blessing of Throats" for any who missed last weekend. We pray for our sick and eternal life for Elaine Cihak.

God bless you,
Fr. Jim

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS

Wednesday, February 18
5:30 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement
The class will meet at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude in time for participants to attend the 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass at St. John's. We hope to see you there!

WOMEN'S PRE-LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, February 14
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Parkson

The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Lunch will be served. The day will conclude with lunch at 1:00 p.m. Free will donations are encouraged. Please register at bit.ly/4st1yUR or call 605-928-3676.



**SEARCH FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY
KNOW - LOVE - SERVE**

February 27 - March 1,
2026

November 6 - 9, 2026

Register at <https://www.siouxfallssearch.org/>. For more information, contact siouxfallssearch@gmail.com. You can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117881520509/?ref=bookmarks>

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 11
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
6:00 p.m. - St. John's 1st Confessions

Friday, February 13
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's

Saturday, February 14
4:30 p.m. - St. John's

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

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: FEBRUARY 8

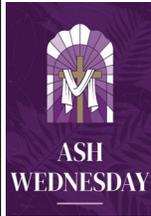
- ◆ *Saints Benedict and Scholastica*
- ◆ *Beloved*
- ◆ *Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science*



CATHOLIC DAUGHTER MEETING

Thursday, February 12
6:30 p.m.

Daily Rosary will be prayed at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by 5:30 p.m. Mass. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. (following a light supper). Lunch Committee: Julie Wiechmann, Chairman; Betty Soukup; Veretta Kelly; Ann Doty; Lisa Schoenfelder; Evelyn Kisely.



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



MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Anyone who would like to request Masses be prayed at St. John's or Assumption should contact Father Jim who handles scheduling of Mass intentions at Wagner and Dante. Requests for Masses at Marty should be directed to Sr. Miriam or Cathy Kreeger.

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	February 9	Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	5:00 p.m. - St. John's CCD Center Chapel	Frank & Rose Kocer †
Tuesday	February 10	Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin	5:30 p.m. - Assumption	Dennis Cihak †
Wednesday	February 11	Wednesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time' Our Lady of Lourdes	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Jeanne Soulek †
Thursday	February 12	Thursday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 a.m. - GSC 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Eddy Seiner † Bobby Soukup †
Friday	February 13	Friday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Margie Pavin †
Saturday	February 14	Vigil of the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Leonard & Ayrelou Farke †/ Rachel Soukup †
Sunday	February 15	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Joan Pieper Roger Frankenstein †

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				LOOKING AHEAD
"Serve the Lord with gladness" <small>-Psalms 100:2</small>				Monday, February 9 Mass at 5:00 p.m. in St. John's CCD Center Chapel/Daily Rosary Following
Saturday, February 14 5:30 p.m. - St. John's				Tuesday, February 10 Evening Prayer at 5:10 p.m. at Assumption Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Assumption Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
Sunday, February 15 9:00 a.m. - Assumption				Wednesday, February 11 Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following CCD/First Confession at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Faith Formation at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's CCD at 6:45 p.m. at Assumption
Sunday, February 15 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's				Thursday, February 12 Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner Good Samaritan Center Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Daughter Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (Light supper to be served before meeting)
EM	Gene Niehus/ Barb Johannsen	Joe Sees	Tana	Friday, February 13 Young Children's Bible School at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption 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
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Bonnie Soukup	Joe Sees	Emma/ Sr. Miriam/ Sr. Pat	Saturday, February 14 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 Knights of Columbus Valentines Party at 6:30 p.m. at Wagner American Legion
Altar Servers	Hannah, Luke, Rachel, & Jacob Holzbauer	Easton Sees/ Hudson Sees	Ridge/ Bladen	Sunday, February 15 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
Music	Lisa Cihak	Micky Hollmann		
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Clayton Rados/ Doug Cimpl	Bennett/ Briggs	
Greeters	Dorothy Holzbauer		Mary Jo	
Gift Bearers	Lynn & Kim Soukup	Joe Sees Family	Laken, Jordan & Family	
Rosary	Ray & Bonnie Soukup			
Sacristan	Ray Soukup			
Collection Counters	Paul Eggers/ Karol Kniffen	Josie Rezac/ Karen Peters	Dave/ Ray	 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.

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION	
Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
January 31	\$1060.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amount was also received:	
Mass Stipends	\$ 130.00

FEBRUARY PARISH POTLUCK
Saturday, February 7
6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. (After 5:30 p.m. Mass)
Everyone is invited!!

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!

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.

ST. JOHN'S DONATION STATEMENTS
Donation records for 2025 were emailed (from wagner@holypostlessd.org) to those who have email addresses on file with the parish. If you did not receive your statement, check your spam folder and/or check to make sure your inbox is not full and no longer accepting mail. You may also check with Theresa Koupal to make sure the parish has your correct email address. Print copies will be made only upon individual request(s).

 *Heartfelt sympathies to the family & friends of William "Billy" Leroy. William died on Saturday, January 25. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31, at the YST South Gym, Wagner. Cremation was to take place after the services.*

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/>.

WAGNER COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
Tuesday, February 10
Noon to 5:30 p.m.
Wagner Fire Hall
Sponsored by Wagner Community Memorial Hospital
Please note the corrected date!

EARLY DEADLINE
EARLY DEADLINE NOTICE:
FEBRUARY 15 BULLETIN
Please note that there will be an early deadline for the February 15 bulletin. The deadline for that bulletin will be noon on Tuesday, February 10, so that the bulletin can be printed on Wednesday morning, February 11.

LENTE 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.

 **ASSUMPTION FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK BRUNCH**
Sunday, February 8
10:00 a.m. (After 9:00 a.m. Mass)
Assumption CCD Center
Please bring something to share!
ALL ARE WELCOME!

 **YOUNG CHILDREN'S BIBLE SCHOOL**
Friday, February 13
9:00 a.m.
Assumption CCD Center

 *With his parents and the Assumption parish family, we welcome, through the waters of Baptism, Layton Alexander Koupal. Layton is the son of Steven and Taylor Koupal and was baptized at Assumption on Saturday, January 31. We rejoice in welcoming Layton to the family of God!*



Birthdays

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

February 9: Andrea Kokesh (SJ), Pat Breen (SJ), Gina Carda (SJ), Jessica Kuhlman (SJ), Kylar Kafka (SJ), Hunter Wiechmann (SJ), Richard Andersh (A), Eli Olson (A), Taylor Cimpl (A); February 12: Marla Soukup (SJ); February 13: Shawn Mixon (A); February 14: Jessica Kocer (SJ), Sabrina Kreber (A); February 15: Paul Schoenfelder (SJ), Maggie Honomichl (SJ).

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



February 14: David & Susan Becvar (SJ); February 15: Jim & Kristi Beeson (A), Gene & Laura Soukup (A).

Happy Anniversary to St. Paul's parishioners who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week!

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EVERYDAY STEWARSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

When a new store or restaurant opens in the area, there can be quite a buzz. People want to see what the place is like. If the establishment is lucky, a positive word of mouth can spread all over the area. The challenge then becomes keeping that buzz alive. If people start to think that the new place is not as good as advertised or they had hoped, the crowds will dwindle and soon the new place will simply become an old place. Even worse, it could become a closed place.

If you were a store owner, what would you do to attract people? Would you always put your best foot forward? How hard

would you work to show everybody that your place is worth repeated visits and patronage?

You may not be an entrepreneur with your own business, but you do have your parish community. This is your community and what you do and how you act in the world around you will either add to a buzz or a lack of interest. How you use the gifts you and your community have been given will do a lot to attract people and cause them to talk. You will be like a city on top of a mountain that no one can miss. Can your light shine so bright that it can be seen from miles around? You may be only one person, but you are a part of something greater than yourself. Your stewardship can easily become contagious. At a time when too many are choosing to disregard the Church, it is time to create a positive buzz.

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PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS WHAT STAYS THE SAME BE SALTY

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show evidence of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they should be. Who they were meant to be.

Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of themselves. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it?

There is a plan for each of us. There is a path to holiness for each of us. This path doesn't bypass our flaws or our weaknesses; it incorporates them. It transforms them. It fulfills them.

So be salty. Be who you were meant to be.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ABBEY OF THE HILLS

Tuesday, February 10

"Clearing the Clutter: Making Room for Christ This Lent," Presenter: Lizzy Guiliani
February 13

Vespers & Valentines: Prayer Time & Candlelight Dinner
February 27 - March 1

Women's Lenten Retreat: "Finding Hope in Suffering"
Tuesday, March 10

"Joy on the Journey: Thoughts from an Oblate of St. Benedict," Presenter: Fr. Michael Griffin
March 13-15

Men's Lenten Retreat - "Through Him, With Him, In Him"
Tuesday, April 14

"The Spirit of Reverence in the Rule of St. Benedict," Presenter: Fr. Michael Peterson

For more information or to register for any of these events, call 605-398-9200 or visit www.abbeyofthehills.org.

Readings for the Week of February 8, 2026

Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next 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

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