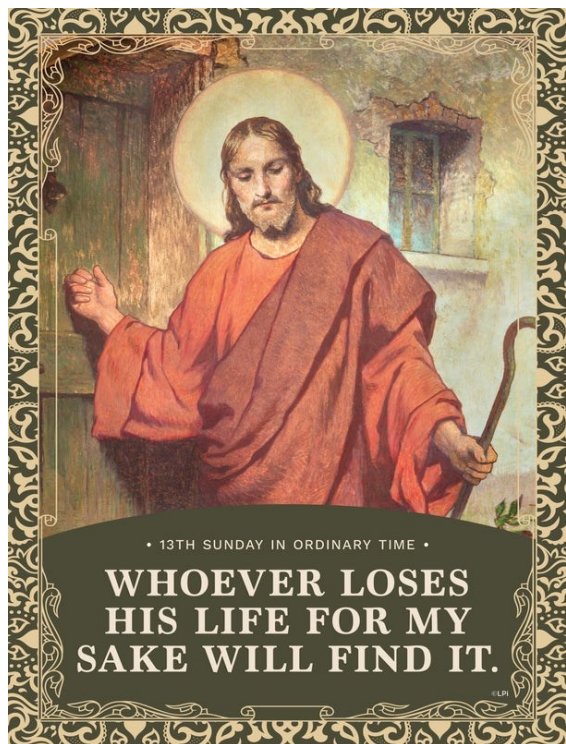




#### GOSPEL MEDITATION: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I still remember the first homily I ever preached as a new deacon. It was at the seminary, and the Gospel was this one: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37-38) Standing before more than 200 classmates and professors, I stumbled awkwardly through my words and realized how strange — almost insane — this teaching sounded. If anyone else said it, we would call it narcissistic or cultish.

And that is the point. I felt the weight of those words in my own heart then, as I still do today. Am I willing to live as though Christ's claim on my love is absolute? Are you?

Over the years, I've learned that the more I do, the more everything else makes sense. Family, friendships, vocation, even my very self: all of it falls into place when my love for Jesus comes first.

That is why he dares to speak this way. Our Lord is not a cult leader hungry for control. He is the Son of God, the source of life and love itself. To put him before everything else is not to lose, but to find...everything, and everyone, in him.

This week, name one thing or one person you are tempted to place before the Lord. Then consciously offer it back to him in prayer.

— Father John Muir

©LPi



June 28, 2026  
Thirteenth 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**

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](http://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://](https://stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.weebly.com/)

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

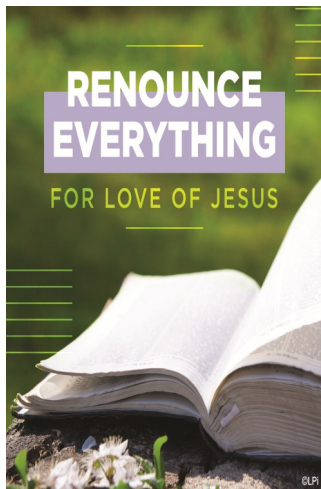
Dear Parishioners and Friends,

During the last years of his life my Dad's blindness made him very dependent upon Mom; it appeared Mom's daily life was built around consideration of what Dad might need. Such things can take us toward St. Paul's point today: "You must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God."

We pray for our young people's experience with D-Camp and Steubenville and this week's Lumen Christi days right here. Do come, even if it is a last minute registration. Daily Mass is open to all as is the Wednesday potluck as well as adoration at 8pm. Note the Marty Mass this week is moved to 4:30pm Friday (so I can get doused in the Lumen Christi water fight)! I'll try to get in some server training along with the Lumen Christi scheduling. I'm most grateful for those coming this weekend after

Mass in Dante and in Marty (or next weekend again at Marty) for possible new or renewal training for being a minister of Holy Communion.

Peace,  
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. 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: JUNE 28

- ◆ Saint Junipero Serra: A Man of God, a Mission of Love
- ◆ Saint Peter
- ◆ Paul the Apostle: The Bible Collection

#### MERCY HOUR

Sunday, June 28  
3:00 p.m.  
St. John's Catholic Church

#### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**Monday, June 29**  
11:15 a.m. - Assumption \*  
**Tuesday, June 30**  
11:15 a.m. - Assumption \*  
**Wednesday, July 1**  
11:15 a.m. - Assumption \*  
4:15 p.m. - St. John's  
**Thursday, July 2**  
11:15 a.m. - Assumption \*  
**Friday, July 3**  
10:30 a.m. - Assumption \*  
**Saturday, July 4**  
8:30 a.m. - Assumption  
9:30 a.m. - Assumption  
4:30 p.m. - St. John's  
**Sunday, July 5**  
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

\*Lumen Christi

#### CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS

Wednesday, July 22  
6:00 p.m.  
St. John's Catholic Church

#### MASS SCHEDULE

| Day       | Date    | Memorial/Feast Day                                                                                                                           | Mass Location/Time                                      | Intention                                                   |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | June 29 | Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles                                                                                                   | 11:45 a.m. - Assumption<br>5:00 p.m. - Grey Eagle Apts. | Living & Deceased of Cihak/Janda Family<br>Kateri Members † |
| Tuesday   | June 30 | Tuesday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time/<br>First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church                                                   | 11:45 a.m. - Assumption                                 | Dorothy Dixon †                                             |
| Wednesday | July 1  | Wednesday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time/<br>Saint Junipero Serra, Priest                                                           | 11:45 a.m. - Assumption<br>5:00 p.m. - St. John's       | Dale Weber †<br>Jeanne Soulek †                             |
| Thursday  | July 2  | Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time                                                                                             | 10:00 a.m. - GSC<br>11:45 a.m. - Assumption             | Mary Geaghan †<br>For Our Country                           |
| Friday    | July 3  | Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle/<br>First Friday Mass                                                                                         | 11:00 a.m. - Assumption<br>4:30 p.m. - St. Paul's       | Father Hal Barber †<br>OSBS Relatives & Friends †           |
| Saturday  | July 4  | Saturday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time/<br>Independence Day/First Saturday Mass<br>Vigil of the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00 a.m. - Assumption<br>5:30 p.m. - St. John's        | Dorothy Dixon †<br>Fred & Ann Eggers †                      |
| Sunday    | July 5  | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time                                                                                                           | 9:00 a.m. - Assumption<br>11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's       | Ernie Kocer †<br>Jerry Barnett †                            |



#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING/RENEWAL

Sunday, June 28 & July 12  
10:00 a.m. (After 9:00 a.m. Mass at Assumption)  
June 28 & July 5  
Noon (After 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Paul's)

Note: This training is for all current extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and for any parishioners interested in being trained and commissioned by Bishop DeGrood to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

#### 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!

#### BROOM TREE DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

**August 25**  
The Penitent Lifestyle  
Directed by Archbishop Gullickson  
**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

| MINISTRY SCHEDULE                                                         |                                                                             |                                                          |                                                           | LOOKING AHEAD<br>Monday, June 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>"Serve the Lord<br/>with gladness"</b><br><small>— Psalm 100:2</small> | <b>Saturday,<br/>July 4<br/>5:30 p.m. -<br/>St. John's</b>                  | <b>Sunday,<br/>July 5<br/>9:00 a.m. -<br/>Assumption</b> | <b>Sunday,<br/>July 5<br/>11:00 a.m. -<br/>St. Paul's</b> | Confessions at 11:15 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:45 a.m. at Assumption<br>Daily Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at Grey Eagle<br>Apartments<br>Mass at 5:00 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>EM</b>                                                                 | Barb<br>Johannsen/<br>Jim Thornton                                          | Volunteer                                                | Alice                                                     | <b>Tuesday, June 30</b><br>Confessions at 11:15 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:45 a.m. at Assumption<br>Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Lector/<br/>Cantor/<br/>Intercessions</b>                              | Bonnie Soukup                                                               | Judy Uchytel                                             | Cathy/<br>Amy/<br>Sr. Pat                                 | <b>Wednesday, July 1</b><br>Confessions at 11:15 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:45 a.m. at Assumption<br>Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's<br>Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following<br>Lumen Christi Potluck at 6:30 p.m. at Assumption (Gather at 5:30 p.m.)<br>Adoration at 8:00 p.m. at Assumption |
| <b>Altar<br/>Servers</b>                                                  | Clarah Soukup/<br>Windsor<br>Soukup/<br>Willow Soukup                       | Trent Uchytel/<br>Josiah Krcil                           | Ridge/<br>Mackson                                         | <b>Thursday, July 2</b><br>Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner Good Samaritan Center/Daily Rosary Following<br>Confessions at 11:15 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:45 a.m. at Assumption                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Music</b>                                                              | Lisa Cihak                                                                  | Micky<br>Hollmann                                        |                                                           | <b>Friday, July 3</b><br>Confessions at 10:30 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:00 a.m. at Assumption<br>Adoration at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's<br>First Friday Mass at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's<br>Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Cemetery                                                                                          |
| <b>Ushers</b>                                                             | Gene Niehus/<br>Colin Soukup/<br>Paul Eggers/<br>Lynn Soukup/<br>Jim Eggers | Clayton<br>Rados/<br>Doug Cimpl                          | Bain/<br>Bennett                                          | <b>Saturday, July 4</b><br>Confessions at 8:30 a.m. at Assumption<br>First Saturday Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption<br>Adoration & Confessions at 9:30 a.m. at Assumption<br>Confessions at 4:30 p.m. at St. John's<br>Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's<br>Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's                                         |
| <b>Greeters</b>                                                           | Theresa<br>Koupal                                                           |                                                          | Judy                                                      | <b>Sunday, July 5</b><br>Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption<br>Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's<br>Training/Renewal for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Community<br>at Noon at St. Paul's                                                                                                         |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                       | Lynn & Kim<br>Soukup                                                        | Charles Roth<br>Family                                   | Alice, Ray, &<br>Family                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Rosary</b>                                                             | Ray & Bonnie<br>Soukup                                                      |                                                          |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sacristan</b>                                                          | Jim Thornton                                                                |                                                          |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Collection<br/>Counters</b>                                            | Ray Soukup.<br>Fran Kocer                                                   | Charles Roth/<br>Adam Uchytel                            | Jason/<br>Sr. Miriam                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



| ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION                                                         |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount Needed Each Week                                                       | \$2750.00 |
| June 20                                                                       | \$1128.00 |
| <b>Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated!</b> |           |

| JULY POTLUCK                                                                        |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, July 11<br>6:30 p.m. (After 5:30 p.m. Mass)<br>St. John's Church Basement |  |
| Everyone is invited to join us and enjoy great food and fellowship!                 |  |

| DAILY ROSARY ON FRIDAYS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Beginning on Friday, July 3 (and continuing as long as the weather allows), the daily Rosary on Friday evenings will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Cemetery. Bring your lawn chairs and meet at the crucifix in the middle of the cemetery! We will be praying for the deceased of our parishes (as listed in the necrologies) and for all our deceased loved ones and friends. We hope to see you there! In the event of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed at St. John's. |  |

|                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Madonna Fitzgerald. Madonna died on Saturday, June 20, at the GSC in Tyndall. Memorial services for Madonna were held on Wednesday, June 24, at Peters Funeral Home with inurnment in St. John's Cemetery, Wagner. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| PLATES/BOWLS/PANS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Please check the laundry basket on the table in the church entryway for unclaimed plates, bowls, and pans. The number of unclaimed items has decreased, but there are still a few items that need to find a home - please claim them if they are yours! |  |

| MARK YOUR CALENDARS:<br>LUMEN CHRISTI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 7-12 grade dates are Sunday, June 28 - Thursday July 2 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.</li> <li>The 1-6 grade dates are Monday, June 29 - Friday July 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may eat with the team after the morning Mass. Bring a sack lunch - parents can pick students up at 1:00 p.m.</li> <li>Volunteers and snack donations for the morning sessions are also needed.</li> <li>There will be Mass every day at 11:45 a.m.; however Mass on Friday will be at 11:00 a.m.</li> <li>There will be a potluck Wednesday evening - gather at 5:30 p.m. and eat by 6:00 p.m. Members of all parishes are invited!</li> <li>There will be Eucharistic Adoration at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening.</li> <li>There will be a water fight on Friday - children can be picked up at 1:00 p.m. at the Dante park.</li> <li>Kids are asked to bring a water bottle daily.</li> <li>In serving one another in our community, we will be collecting items for the food pantry all week.</li> <li>It's not too late to register!</li> <li>Contact Norma Beeson at 491-2961 and Stacy Holzbauer at 491-0401.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| 33 <sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL<br>BISHOP'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, August 17, 2026<br>Minnehaha Country Club - and - The Country Club of Sioux Falls                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| The Bishop's Cup is the longest-running Bishop's Charity event for our diocese. Established in 1994, this event is held in August of each year on the two most pristine courses in the region: The Country Club of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha Country Club. Proceeds from this event benefit Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center, located near Irene, SD. For more information, visit <a href="https://ccfesd.org/events/bishops-cup/">https://ccfesd.org/events/bishops-cup/</a> |  |

| DANTE HARVEST FESTIVAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, August 9<br>Donations of vegetables and empty Cool Whip containers are needed for the Harvest Festival on August 9. Anyone who will be unable to work is asked to contact Amya Soukup 605-770-8168 or Kristi Koupal 605-491-1128! |  |

| 12 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TASTE THE GOODNESS<br>SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026                                                                                                                                                 |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 5:00 - 9:00 PM<br>DOWNTOWN SIOUX FALLS<br>AVERA TECH BUILDING   212 E 11TH ST<br>For more information, visit <a href="https://ccfesd.org/events/taste-the-goodness/">https://ccfesd.org/events/taste-the-goodness/</a> |  |



## Birthdays

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

June 29: Brianna Fuchs (SJ), Dave Hewitt (SJ), Kristi Kafka (SJ), Angie Fousek (SJ), Bernie Hill (SJ), Tracy Krcil (A); June 30: Matt Slaba (SJ); July 1: Mitch Breen (SJ), Laney Kafka (SJ); July 2: Joni Soukup (SJ); July 3: Doris Hosek (SJ), Joslyn Walloch (A); July 4: Agnes Kokesh (SJ), Judie Dilts (SJ), Angie Scheuffele (SJ), Charlene Beeson (A); July 5: Jentry Wiechmann (SJ).

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:

June 29: Gary & Anna Uchytel (SJ); June 30: Ron & JoAnn Mazourek (SJ); July 1: Don & Jody Kocer (SJ), Bob & Beth Krcil (A); July 3: Jon & Lynn Stather (A); July 5: Brad & Pam Roth (A).

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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28, 2026

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42  
Monday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 Day: Acts 12:1-11/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27  
Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17/Mt 8:28-34  
Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8  
Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29  
Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17  
Next Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-3

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

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

#### RECEIVING

I receive a lot of junk mail. I'm on a bunch of people's asking-for-money lists, and so were the people who owned this house before me, and when you put it all together, it results in quite the pile of paper accumulating on my counter.

I leave it there because, while I have received this mail, I don't want to receive it. Do you see the difference? To really receive someone or something, you have to look at it, assess it, make space for it. Accept it. Decide it will have a place in your home or your life or whatever, and give it that place.

It's what the righteous woman did with Elisha. She received him. She had a room all ready, waiting for him, even when he wasn't there.

But I refuse to receive the junk mail. I don't have space for it, in my head or on my counter, so after a day or two, I just throw it away without looking through it.

"Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me," Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew.

But what does that mean, exactly?

It's easy to receive Jesus, or at least to receive the Jesus presented to us by modern imagination — that laidback hippie who lets anyone sit at his table, no questions asked. But it's harder to receive the Christ, God the Son, who is consubstantial

with God the Father who sent him.

Ah, yes, God the Father — maybe you've heard of Him? He's the one from the Old Testament who says and does a bunch of things that make modern people uncomfortable.

That's a little more of a challenge, isn't it? Takes a little bit more thought. A little more assessment. A little more making-space.

Can we do it? Well, we have to find a way. Because for the record, laidback hippie Jesus doesn't exist. And Old Testament God makes a lot of sense, if you give Him a little thought. If you make a little space.

So make the space. Receive.

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### Level I Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - Mitchell July 30, 31, & August 1

Sacred Heart Pastorate will be hosting a Level I Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Training at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mitchell, SD in 2026 and 2027. Dates for Level I Part A are July 30, 31, & August 1 AND October 10-12, 2026. For further information and registration, visit <https://mitchellcatholic.org/whats-new/news/cgs-training-to-be-offered-in-2026-2027>.



**Blessed  
is the nation  
whose God is  
the LORD.**

PSALM 33:12

©LPi

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### PUTTING GOD FIRST

It took five years of marriage before I was ready to have that first baby. Of course, now that I have three children I cannot imagine a life without them. After twenty-five years, I cannot imagine life without my wife as well.

And I know that I am lucky. I know those who have lost children or have been widowed. They couldn't imagine life without their loved ones either.

The tough reality to digest is that we don't own those whom we love. They are all gifts from God, entrusted to each of us as good stewards. If we cling too tightly, we become like the steward who buried his talents in the ground. If we don't care enough, we become like the prodigal son who squandered his gifts on gambling and frivolous living.

But can we love our loved ones too much? I am not sure it is possible to love others too much if it is genuine love. However, if we truly love them, then we will want to lead them to the One that gave them to us in the first place: God. We do that by demonstrating that no one comes before God in our lives, not even our family.

In this world, our loved ones make living meaningful. But this world is not the end. As much as we love them here, our ultimate goal is for them to live eternally with God. May my wife and kids never think I chose them over God, so that they may choose God over all else, as well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi

### FREE LANCE WRITERS NEEDED

Are you a writer who would like to contribute to spreading the Gospel in the Diocese of Sioux Falls? The Bishop's Bulletin is looking to add more freelance writers to their stable of writing professionals. If you have writing experience and a heart for the Church and the stories of your diocese, please contact Renae Kranz at [rkranz@sfcatholic.org](mailto:rkranz@sfcatholic.org). The average writer is assigned a story once every couple months. Join the Bishop's Bulletin team!