

GOSPEL MEDITATION: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, "his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light" (Matthew 17:2). That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the "artifact" you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

— Father John Muir
©LPI



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday of Lent

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,

Welcome Bishop DeGrood: in the area so stopping overnight at the rectory and the 9am Mass at Dante! Just as GPS is useless if it isn't told the destination to aim for, so our lives are aimless wandering if we are not focused on eternal union with Christ. Today Peter, James and John glimpse Jesus' glory in the Transfiguration, a vision that will help them even through the Passion; we, too, must focus on Christ.

We've begun Children's Collection at Wagner and handing out the children's bulletin at that time. The Marty restroom is being made; the confessional up front is where I aim to be each Sunday before Mass. In Dante we're looking to hire lawn mowing and church cleaning as Jane desires to retire from that. A gentle reminder of the schedule of Stations of the

Cross (one person emailed me of how meaningful the Stations were), book studies starting, Rice Bowl, Food Pantry and CFSA - how wonderful that we had some parishes far exceed their goal last year! One person approached me regarding my request for persons to help 'man' the Respect Life Booth at the Farm & Home Show. ADDED to the schedule this Thursday at 6pm at the Peace Shrine east of Wagner we'll do a special outdoor Stations of the Cross among the 50 large cottonwood crosses Matt Hill made, put up, and is using for a scholarship fundraiser for youth camp: dress for it and join us at 6pm Thursday!

Fr. Jim

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Monday, March 2
7:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement
Please note that the meeting was moved to Monday night because of township meetings.



**WAGNER-DANTE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FISH FRY**

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

**FIRST CATHOLIC LADIES SLOVAK
MEETING & LUNCHEON**

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies will host their March meeting and luncheon on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 12:30 PM at the Blahagio. Please join us for great food and fellowship.

**WELCOME,
BISHOP DEGROOD!**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 3
5:00 p.m. - Assumption
Wednesday, March 4
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
6:45 p.m. - Assumption
(CCD Confessions)
Friday, March 6
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, March 7
8:00 a.m. - Assumption
9:30 a.m. - Assumption
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, March 8
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: MARCH 1

- ◆ Lent and New Life in Christ
- ◆ Saints Perpetua & Felicity
- ◆ Perpetua & Felicity: The Faithful



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. 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.



**PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS**

CATHOLIC DAUGHTER MEETING

Thursday, March 12
6:30 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement

The meeting will follow daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. and Mass at 5:30 p.m. A light supper will be served before the meeting. Lunch committee: Kristi Koupal, Chairman; Jan Holzbauer; Sherri Fuchs; Irene Kril; Stacy Holzbauer; Kami Soukup; Pam Donelan, Carolyn Kocer.

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	March 2	Lenten Weekday	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Bill Slaba †
Tuesday	March 3	Lenten Weekday/ Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin	5:30 p.m. - Assumption	Wesly & Elsie Kocer †
Wednesday	March 4	Lenten Weekday/ Saint Casimir	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Bonnie Novak †
Thursday	March 5	Lenten Weekday	10:00 a.m. - GSC	Bonnie Novak †
Friday	March 6	Lenten Weekday/ First Friday Mass	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	OSBS Relatives & Friends †
Saturday	March 7	Lenten Weekday/Saints Perpetua & Felicity/ First Saturday Mass	900 a.m. - Assumption	Blake Pieper
		Vigil of the Third Sunday of Lent	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Bobby Soukup †
Sunday	March 8	Third Sunday of Lent	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Ernie Kocer †
			11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Dorothy Paulis †

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!



**UPCOMING EVENTS
AT ABBEY OF THE HILLS
March 5, 2026**

**St. Benedict and St. John's University
Chamber Choir**

Directed by Bradley Miller- Conductor.
7:30 p.m. – Free Will Offering – No Tickets Required

March 10, 2026- Day of Recollection- Fr. Micheal Griffin
"Joy on the Journey: Thoughts from an Oblate of St. Benedict."
Registration is required.

March 13-15, 2026- Men's Lenten Retreat
"Through Him, With Him, and In Him"

March 17, 2026- St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Serving from 5-8 PM. Gather your family and friends, wear your green, and come celebrate with us at the Abbey.

For more information regarding these and future events visit www.abbeyofthehills.org or email events@abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200.



.STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS WEEK

Thursday, March 5

6:00 p.m.
Peace Shrine

Friday, March 6

6:00 p.m.
St. John's (After Rosary)

In Your goodness Lord, bless us. Help us to know Your abundance and Your gifts. Help us to hear Your voice and know Your assurance. Help us remember what You have done, and look forward to what You will do. Amen. ©LPI

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

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

	Saturday, March 7 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, March 8 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, March 8 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Gene Niehus/ Mieke Slaba	Volunteer	Mary Jo
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Becky Brunsing	Donna Smejkal	Tana/E Amy/ Sr. Pat
Altar Servers	Jessica Barnett/ Cooper Slaba/ Aveleigh Slaba	Kate Swier/ Vera Beeson	Bennett/ Briggs
Music	Kara Hanan	Pam Roth	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Ross Beeson/ Steven Koupal	Jason/ Ridge
Greeters	Lynn & Kim Soukup		Judy
Gift Bearers	Jenni Soukup Family	Ross Beeson Family	Ryan & Abby K. Family
Rosary	Don & Theresa Koupal		
Sacristan	Don Koupal		
Collection Counters	Karen Kuhlman/ Paul Eggers	Ross Beeson/ Steven Koupal	Emma/ Sr. Miriam

LOOKING AHEAD
Monday, March 2

Evening Prayer at 4:40 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following
Knights of Columbus Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's

Tuesday, March 3

Book Study at 3:30 p.m. at St. John's
Confessions at 5:00 p.m. at Assumption
Mass at 5:30 p.m. Mass at Assumption
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Wednesday, March 4

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 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's
Faith Formation at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
CCD & CCD Confessions at 6:45 p.m. at Assumption

Thursday, March 5

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner GSC/Daily Rosary Following
Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. at Peace Shrine

Friday, March 6

First Friday 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, March 7

Confessions at 8:00 a.m. at Assumption
First Saturday Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption/Adoration & Confessions Following
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/Potluck Supper Following

Sunday, March 8

Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at Assumption
Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption/Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Following
Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's
Lenten Study at 1:30 p.m. at Assumption

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00
Ash Wednesday \$ 198.18
February 21 \$ 740.40
Children's Collection \$ 14.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:
EPAY (St. John's Cemetery) \$ 200.00
EPAY (St. John's Parish) \$ 200.00
E-payments are donations made through the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota and channeled back to the parish cemetery fund and to the parish.

MARCH POTLUCK

Saturday, March 7
6:30 p.m. (After 5:30 p.m. Mass)
St. John's Church Basement
Everyone is invited to attend! We hope you can join us to enjoy great food and fellowship.

ST. JOHN'S CFSA

Saint John's CFSA assessment is \$30,500 this year. Please prayerfully consider how you can help our parish meet or exceed its goal. Pledge cards/donations can be dropped in the offering basket at Mass or sent by mail to the parish. Remember that any money donated above the \$30,500 stays in the parish and can be used for parish projects/activities without being counted as parish income. Regular updates on our parish progress in reaching its goal will be posted as pledge cards/donations are processed. Thank you, in advance, for your prayerful generosity!

COMING SOON!

Thanks to the generosity of St. John's Altar Society and two anonymous donors, Mass Busy Bags for young children are being prepared and will soon be available in the church entryway.



SOUP DINNER

Sunday, March 15
Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Serving: Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup/Ham Sandwiches, Chicken Salad Sandwiches/Pies/Desserts/Beverages
Sponsored by Wagner-Dante Catholic Daughters

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

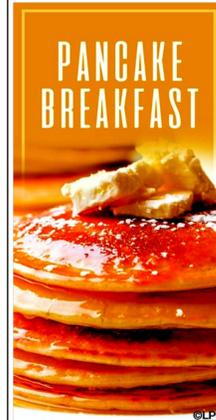
Friday, March 6
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Fr. Cronin Center - St. Leo's Catholic Church Tyndall, SD
Alaska Pollock & Homemade Salads, Dessert Included
\$15 Person/Children Under 10 Are Free
Dine In or Carry Out
Delivery Available by Calling
Connie, 605-464-1450
Charlotte, 605-464-0179

JOURNEY WITH US TO EASTER

91.3/94.5
SIOUX FALLS, SD



As you prepare for Easter, let RPR be a part of your daily routine. Download our app for easy listening - free of distractions.



ASSUMPTION YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 8th following our 9:00 a.m. Mass at the CCD Center.
Our parish youth will be serving homemade buttermilk pancakes, eggs, ham, toast, juice and coffee. **FREE WILL DONATION.** All are welcome. Come enjoy fellowship and support our youth!



With his parents and the Assumption parish family, we welcome, through the waters of Baptism, Walden Lee Krcil. Walden is the son of Tyler and McKayla Krcil and was baptized on Saturday, February 21, at Assumption. We rejoice in welcoming Walden to the family of God!



YOUNG CHILDREN'S BIBLE SCHOOL

Friday, March 13
9:00 a.m.
Assumption CCD Center

FIRST CATHOLIC LADIES SLOVAK MEETING & LUNCHEON

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies will host their March meeting and luncheon on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 12:30 PM at the Blahagio. Please join us for great food and fellowship.



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

March 2: Mark Wiechmann (SJ), Doug Kokesh (SJ), Mavrick Hill (SJ), Tricia Holbauer (SJ), Jake Anderson (SJ), Blaine Anderson (SJ), Colin Soukup (SJ), Jeffrey Wepking (A), Anya Cimpl (A); March 3: Michele Juffer (SJ), John Blaha (A), Uriah Krcil (A); March 4: Koltin Pazour (SJ), Rookie Davies (SJ), Theresa Swier (A), Carter Koupal (A); March 7: Nathan Mathis (SJ), Libby Kotab (A); March 8: Angie Fischer (SJ), Randy Soukup (SJ), Michael Kotab (A).

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

PRACTICING CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

THREE TENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

You guys, I was such a good Catholic at the National Eucharistic Congress.

Mass every day? Check. Rosary every day? Check (and check — we said a lot of rosaries). Deep thoughts and deep conversations about God with total strangers? Check. Hours in adoration reflecting on the state of my soul? Check.

When I went to Indianapolis in the summer of 2024 to cover the NEC for our archdiocesan newspaper, I knew it would be a fun and spiritually rich experience. But I didn't expect that it would make me think differently about my whole life (and afterlife). And when people ask me why — "What happened in Indianapolis that changed you?" — I can only tell them this: I spent time with God.

Of course, I do all these things in my regular life at home, too. I try to be a good Catholic here. But good grief, it's a lot harder. In Indianapolis, I didn't have a calendar full of appointments and to-do lists that filled me with dread. I didn't have the world crowding around me, grasping at my attention and my will.

Indianapolis was the mountain, and if I could have, I would have built three tents.

So I understand Peter's feelings at the Transfiguration. He's thrilled — he sees it all clearly now. Here is the fullness of Truth, revealed in all its glory, and he's ready to start bringing groups of tourists up to see it. He's ready to bring people to Christ. But in the blood-soaked, fear-filled days to come, Peter will realize that it's not his job to bring the world to the Truth. His job is to bring the Truth into the world.

What a tragedy it would be, if Truth only lived on the mountaintop.

So build three tents, strong and durable shelters for the Truth to dwell. But build them in your heart. And then, the Transfiguration won't be just an event, something that happened at a certain time and a certain place. It'll be a reality that lives within us all. And we will bear it with us wherever we go.

©LPI



DAYS OF RECOLLECTION AT BROOM TREE

"Staying Faithful to Our Lenten Penance Commitments" Tuesday, March 10 Directed by Father Joe Forcelle

"Apparitions of Mary: Her Impact, Then and Now" Tuesday, April 14 Directed by Father Kristopher Cowles

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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS:

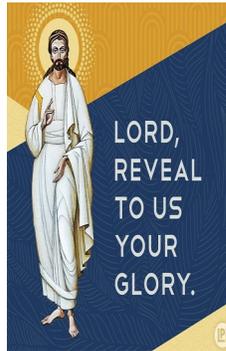
THE 6 CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP FOR LENT

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

When my children were younger, they could make me laugh and sometimes cry. I would have conversations about animals, nature, outer space, and so many amazing things in life. I would play with them one day and then work to bandage a boo-boo the next. There were so many dynamics to our relationship. However, one aspect was my favorite. It was when one of them would snuggle up next to me on the couch silently, often leading to sleep. There was no better feeling, and I didn't want to move for anything. It is crazy to think of all the things we would do together, and my favorite was when we essentially were doing nothing.

Do you think God desires a portion of you? Without a doubt, He wants all of you: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Walking with Him daily is so important, and we can never become the disciples and stewards we need to be without a deepening relationship. Yet, prayer is not just talking and listening. It is also being. We sometimes seek to communicate so much and do so many things that we forget the value of stewardship of presence. The giving of ourselves completely to another often requires us to simply be with that person. We feel their presence. We rest in their being. No words are needed because words would destroy the moment. This is what we are called to in a relationship with God. This is good stewardship because it is about giving of our very presence to God and receiving strength from that resting in Him. Sometimes, all we need is to snuggle up to our God on the couch.

©LPI



Readings for the Week of March 1, 2026

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9 Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38 Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31 Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

©LPI

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED ICON WRITING

At first, the term "icon writing" may be confusing. Writing an icon? Shouldn't it be drawing an icon, or painting an icon?

But although an icon depicts an image, it is so much more than just a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. Those who purchase icons for private devotion should have them blessed, as they are sacramentals. The Catechism tells us that "Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words."

In early Christianity, this was deeply controversial. Many so-called "iconoclasts" pointed to the Old Testament's prohibition of idols and insisted that it was sinful to represent the face of God in an image. But defenders of iconography like St. John Damascene pointed to the incarnation as a turning point in our visual relationship with God. In Christ, God made himself visible, and thus continually invites us to contemplate and understand Him visually.

©LPI