

GOSPEL MEDITATION: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you not see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— Father John Muir
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**March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Holy Apostles Pastorate

Fr. Thomas Clement, Pastor
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Fr. Jim Friedrich, Parochial Vicar
384-5518 or 605-933-9042
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**Sr. Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB
Director of Discipleship & Evangelization**
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**JoNell DeHaan,
Administrative Assistant/Communications**
office@holypostlessd.org

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
107 High Avenue SW (PO BOX 637), Wagner

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Catholic Church**
416 Haines Street, Dante

St. Paul Catholic Church
102 Church DR (PO Box 266), Marty

**Connect with all 9 parishes within Holy Apostles Pastorate
by visiting holypostlessd.org.
Here you will find Mass times, bulletins, a calendar of events,
faith formation information & more!**

**Check out Holy Apostles Pastorate on
Facebook and Instagram!**



**St. John's Parish
Contact Information**

Rectory/Basement Kitchen 384-5518
CCD Center 384-5157
Bulletin:
Theresa Koupal 481-1565
dkoupal@hcinet.net
Prayer Chain:
Dorothy Holzbauer 491-2699
Parish Website: [https://
stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.weebly.com/](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,

The rose colored vestment means we've passed the mid-way point of Lent; so let us look eagerly forward to all that is to come! To be born blind and come to sight; how awesome the touch of God! The Pharisees shut their eyes to the works of God that did not fit view and the man's parents fearfully closed their mouths when directly asked about his healing. Closed minds and fearful hearts still plague us today; Lord Jesus help us turn mind and heart to you!

Today, Sunday, we have First Confessions at Marty. At Wagner CDofA Soup Dinner is from 11am-3pm. I am helping with 3pm Confessions in Geddes, will be in Sioux Falls Tues & Wed for Clergy Formation and Chrism Mass, and Thurs in Alexandria for KofC 4th degree exemplification. Dante's CCD Mass is Wed and Marty Stations/Confessions are Friday. We pray eternal rest for Shirley Ridgeway.

Pray for peace,
Fr. Jim



**WAGNER-DANTE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FISH FRY**
Friday, March 27
St. John's Church Basement
Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.
\$15 - Adults
\$10 - 6 to 12 Years Old

CONFESSION SCHEDULE
Wednesday, March 18
 8:15 a.m. - St. John's
Friday, March 20
 1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's
 7:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, March 21
 4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, March 22
 8:15 a.m. - Assumption
 3:00 p.m. - St. John's
 (Mercy Hour)

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.



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

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: MARCH 15

- Joseph of Nazareth
- The Trials of Saint Patrick
- Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle

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.

TRIDUUM RETREAT: BENEDICTINE PEACE CENTER
 Registration deadline for the Triduum Retreat is March 30. Enter the silence and experience the Triduum liturgies with the monastic community. April 2, 4 p.m. to April 5, 1 p.m. Go to yanktonbenedictines.org/triduum for information on registration and costs.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	March 16	Lenten Weekday	5:00 p.m. - CCD Center Chapel	Brady Koupal †
Tuesday	March 17	Lenten Weekday/ Saint Patrick, Bishop	9:00 a.m. - St. John's	John & Beatrice Soukup †/ Leona Soukup †
Wednesday	March 18	Lenten Weekday/ St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	6:45 p.m. - Assumption	Dennis Cihak †
Thursday	March 19	Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the BVM	10:00 a.m. - GSC	Joe Geaghan, Sr. †
Friday	March 20	Lenten Weekday	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Dorothy Paulis †
Saturday	March 21	Lenten Weekday	9:00 a.m. - Marty Convent	Oblate Sisters †
		Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Marie Soukup †
Sunday	March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Eva DeNoyer †
			11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Larry Shindelar †

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!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS WEEK
Friday, March 20
 6:00 p.m.
 St. John's (By Volunteers After Rosary)
 6:30 p.m.
 St. Paul's

**UPCOMING EVENT
AT ABBEY OF THE HILLS**
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.

40 HOURS DEVOTION/ADORATION
 Tuesday, March 24 - 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Assumption
 Wednesday, March 25 - 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., St. John's
 Wednesday, March 25 - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., St. Paul's
 Thursday, March 26 - 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., St. John's
 Friday, March 27 - 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., St. Paul's
 Friday, March 27 - 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., St. John's

MERCY HOUR
 Sunday, March 22
 3:00 p.m.
 St. John's Catholic Church

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Saturday, March 21 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, March 22 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, March 22 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
"Serve the Lord with gladness" <small>-Psalms 100:2</small>			
EM	Judy Barnett/ Mieke Slaba	Joe Sees	Tana
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Ray Soukup	Joe Sees	Georgia/ Amy/ Sr. Pat
Altar Servers	Jessica Barnett/ Cooper Slaba/ Aveleigh Slaba	Easton Sees/ Hudson Sees	Emma/ Kalea
Music	Lisa Cihak	Open	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Clayton Rados/ Doug Cimpl	Riley R./ Dave L.
Greeters	Jeff & Julie Doom		Judy
Gift Bearers	Jeff & Julie Doom	Joe Sees Family	Chris & Karen Donlin
Rosary	Don & Theresa Koupal		
Sacristan	Ray Soukup		
Collection Counters	Mary Kuhlman/ Karen Kuhlman	Josie Rezac/ Karen Peters	Jason/ Ridge

LOOKING AHEAD Monday, March 16

Evening Prayer at 4:40 p.m. at St. John's CCD Center Chapel
Mass at 5:00 at St. John's CCD Center Chapel/Daily Rosary Following

Tuesday, March 17

Adoration & Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at St. John's
Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following
Clergy Formation Day in Sioux Falls
Book Study at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's

Wednesday, March 18

Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. at Cathedral of Saint Joseph
CCD at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's
Adult Night at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
CCD Mass at 6:45 p.m. at Assumption

Thursday, March 19

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner GSC/Daily Rosary Following

Friday, March 20

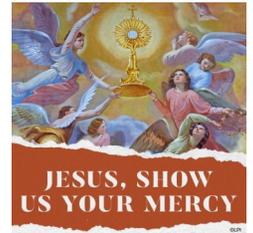
Mass at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
Adoration & Confessions at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
Stations of the Cross & Benediction at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
Stations of the Cross (Led by Volunteers) at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's

Saturday, March 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, March 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
Lenten Study at 1:30 p.m. at Assumption
Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's



LAETARE SUNDAY

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
March 7	\$2024.25
Children's Collection	\$ 2.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amount was also received:	
Votive Candle Offerings	\$ 53.00



The St. John the Baptist parish family extends heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Shirley Ridgway. Shirley died unexpectedly on Thursday,

February 5. The funeral Mass for Shirley was held on Saturday, March 14, at St. John the Baptist, Wagner, with burial in St. John's Cemetery, rural Wagner.

EASTER FLOWERS FOR ST. JOHN'S

If you would like to donate toward the purchase of flowers to decorate the church for Easter, please pick up an envelope in the church entryway. Donations must be turned in by Wednesday, March 25, so flowers can be ordered from Stems & Cells.

ST. JOHN'S CFSA UPDATE

As of Monday, March 9, \$21,567 has been collected for CFSA. This amount represents 70.7% of our goal and includes a payment of \$1,000 that was made directly to the Diocese and a pledge of \$1,000 that will be paid at a later date. The amount left to be collected is \$8,933. The 49 pledge cards/donations that have been received represent 23.7% of our total households. Thank you to those who have already submitted your pledges and donations. If you have not donated, please prayerfully consider how you can help our parish meet or exceed its goal. Any amount raised above the \$30,500 assessment remains in the parish to be used for parish projects without being considered part of the parish income.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

High School Seniors: The deadline for submitting applications for the Knights of Columbus Scholarship is May 1. Watch future bulletins for more information.



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS!

Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God's plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God's will for Jesus — the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Romans 6:5).

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EASTER LILIES AT ASSUMPTION

Anyone wishing to donate towards Easter lilies at Assumption, please contact Josie Rezac 605-481-1771. Prices are \$24 each. Lillies will be purchased from Stems and Cells of Wagner. Deadline to order is March 26. Thank you!

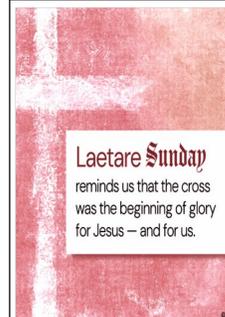
2026 CHRISM MASS: YOU ARE INVITED!

Chrism Mass is Wednesday, March 18 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls. This Mass with Bishop DeGroot and our priests and deacons is open to the public and a beautiful Mass to attend.

CAMP SYDNEY 2026

Registration is NOW OPEN. The Lourdes Center is once again excited to offer a grief camp for youth (to include their parents/guardians) this summer at Broom Tree Family Camp, beginning at 6 p.m. June 5 until 11 a.m. June 7. This three-day camp includes fun activities, discussion and support for both kids and adults. Free-will donations will gladly be accepted. Registration is required and can be completed online at www.thelourdescenter.com.

PRAYER FOR LAETARE SUNDAY



Dear Jesus,
We've been in this season of Lent for a few weeks now. I want to recommit myself in this time — renew and strengthen my resolve. Help me to use these last few weeks to grow closer to you. Amen.

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

March 16: Marla Hewitt (SJ), Emily Robertson (SJ); March 17: Tyler Kokesh (SJ), Mark Walloch (A); March 18: Catie Niehus (SJ), Charles Roth (A); March 19: Ryan Kocer (SJ), Nolan Krcil (A); March 20: Monica Wepking (A), Janelle Sees (A); March 21: David Woods (SJ), Tim Hollmann (A); March 22: Jamie Soukup (SJ), Corbin Carda (SJ).

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



DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT BROOM TREE

"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:

HEAL YOUR BLINDNESS

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Talking about discipleship and truly being a disciple are two very different things. It is easier to know what we should do than to carry out. Many saints from our tradition have had much to say about this struggle to do what they know they must do, and not do that which they know they shouldn't. It is part of being human.

Without God, we have no chance to overcome this predicament. Without God, our actions can ring hollow, or often we are too immobilized to act at all. Without God, we suffer with blindness to the truth of what is important and eternal.

The story in John 9 of Jesus healing the blind man is about more than a physical healing and just one man. It is about how each of us can find healing of our blindness by turning to Jesus Christ. Are you someone that has been saying, "I don't understand all this talk of discipleship and stewardship; what's the big deal?" We all have a blindness that needs to be healed, and the body of Christ needs you so that God's presence in our world can be seen in a more profound manner. The reality is that God heals the blindness of those who seek him so that, in turn, they may be vehicles by which others may see as well.

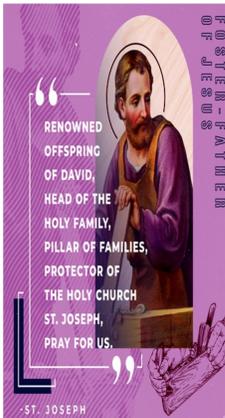
This Lent, you are invited to bring your blindness to Jesus. All the written reflections in the world will not give you new eyes. Those eyes can only be found in Jesus.

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BLESSING TO SEE

Bless us, Lord, to see as You see. Remind us that heartbeats and hopes can outshine outward show. That quiet witness can overcome violence and darkness. That Your Light can break like the dawn. Amen.

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Readings for the Week of March 15, 2026

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

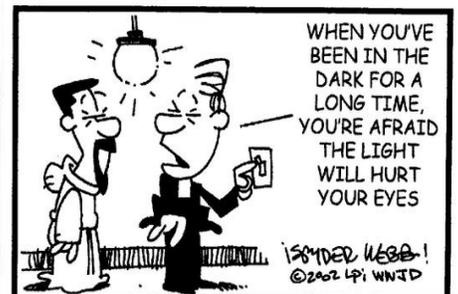
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

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4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

SENT

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I don't know about you. But if I was a blind person sitting by the side of the road, minding my own business, and a stranger came along and rubbed spit-mud in my eye, I'm just salty enough that I would ignore his words out of spite.

Even though he was, admittedly, super-nice about the whole thing.

Obviously I would wash the mud out, because ... spit. But I wouldn't go to the Pool of Siloam. I would go to a pool on the whole other side of town, just to be contrary. I would make frustrated, grossed-out noises while I splashed water on my eyes: "Ugh! I can't believe this! People are the worst!" I would feel satisfied that I wasn't tricked or conned or taken advantage of.

And I would stay blind the rest of my life.

When Jesus performs a miracle in the Gospel, we sometimes think of it like a fireworks show. Something people point at — "Ooh! Aah!" — and move on from. But a miracle of Jesus is not a party trick. It is a commissioning.

And each of us, in our own way, has the choice of accepting it or not.

Nowhere in the Gospel story does it say that Jesus promised the man sight if he washed in the pool. I wonder what it was that made the blind man feel he could trust Jesus. Was it something in his voice? Was it something in his touch? Was it the humanity with which he spoke of the blind man to his disciples — a gentleness missing from most other interactions of his life?

We'll never know. But we do know this: the blind man's sight wasn't restored until he made a decision. A decision to be sent.

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