

GOSPEL MEDITATION: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, "Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way." That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: "One sows and another reaps" (John 4:37). He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen.

— Father John Muir
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**March 8, 2026
Third 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**
605-760-5295
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Bailee Mogck, Business Manager
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**JoNell DeHaan,
Administrative Assistant/Communications**
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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
107 High Avenue SW (PO BOX 637), Wagner

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

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

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

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



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

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



**St. Paul Parish
Contact Information:**

*Catholic Mission
of the
Yankton Sioux People*

St. Sylvester Convent 384-3305
Sister Miriam 384-3234
Prayer Chain
Alice Cournoyer 491-2453
Kateri Circle/Judy Pena 469-5755
Life/Rhonda Kuhlman 384-4257
Faith Formation
Cathy Kreeger 384-3234
Amy Doom 469-5797



**Assumption Parish
Contact
Information:**

Rectory 384-5518
Church/CCD Center 384-5155
Bulletin:
Danielle Krcil 491-2202
daniellekrcil@gmail.com
Prayer Chain:
Cindy Krcil 384-3585
Marilee Krcil 286-3907

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..." Usually I (we?) think of hope for good things to happen TO us and those we love but for us to receive the greatest good it is what happens IN me and you: that God's love is poured inside of me and you, transforming us. Just like the woman at the well - such a miserable condition before Jesus - becomes luminous (that what the name St. Photina means), so the Good News, the great hope, is that God intends that I and you also be similarly changed!

I'm waiting, praying, for responses for lawn mowing and for church cleaning persons at Dante, witnesses to life to 'man' the respect life booth at the Farm & Home show in Wagner (see me), and watching a main floor restroom come into being at Marty. May grace accompa-

ny our Lenten book studies, Rice Bowl, CFSA and food pantry giving, daily Scripture and prayer time, and this week's CCD Confessions (Wed in Wagner), Young Children's Bible School (9am Fri in Dante) and Stations with Confessions (4pm Fri in Marty). A funeral Mass is 10am Sat at Wagner for Shirley Ridgeway; Stations of the Cross happen at 5pm (BEFORE Mass) next Sat in Wagner and at 8:30am (BEFORE Mass) next Sun in Dante. The CDofA Soup Dinner is from 11am-3pm next Sun at Wagner (also note CDofA meeting this Thurs). And THIS SUNDAY is the Youth Fundraiser Breakfast right after Dante's 9am Mass.

God's blessings, so rich!
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



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



CONFESSION SCHEDULE
Wednesday, March 11
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
6:00 p.m. - St. John's
(CCD Confessions)
Friday, March 13
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's
4:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, March 14
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, March 15
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: MARCH 8

- ◆ How to Lent
- ◆ Saint Frances of Rome
- ◆ The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud



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.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTER MEETING

Thursday, March 12
6:30 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement

The meeting will follow 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 Krcil; Stacy Holzbauer; Kami Soukup; Pam Donelan, Carolyn Kocer.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	March 9	Lenten Weekday/Saint Frances of Rome	NO MASS
Tuesday	March 10	Lenten Weekday	NO MASS
Wednesday	March 11	Lenten Weekday	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Francis Doom †
Thursday	March 12	Lenten Weekday	10:00 a.m. - GSC 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Lisa Durham † Ralph Koupal †
Friday	March 13	Lenten Weekday	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Todd & Amy Doom
Saturday	March 14	Funeral Mass for Shirley Ridgeway Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent	10:00 a.m. - St. John's 5:30 p.m. - St. John's Jeanne Soulek †
Sunday	March 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Tim, Don, & Elaine Cihak † First Communicants

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

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 p.m.

Assumption (By CCD)

Friday, March 13

4:30 p.m.

St. Paul's

6:00 p.m.

St. John's (After Rosary)

Saturday, March 14

5:00 p.m.

St. John's (Before Mass)

Sunday, March 15

8:30 a.m.

Assumption (Before Mass)



**Stations
OF THE CROSS**



**UPCOMING EVENTS
AT ABBEY OF THE HILLS
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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, March 14
5:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, March 15
9:00 a.m. - Assumption

Sunday, March 15
11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's

EM	Gene Niehus/ Don Koupal	Volunteer	Alice
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Matt Slaba	Julie Uchytel	Cathy/ Sr. Miriam/ Georgia
Altar Servers	McKinley Podzimek/ Jaylee Kafka/ Skyler Kocer	Josiah Krcil/ Trent Uchytel	Ridge/ Bladen
Music	Kim Soukup	Marilee Krcil	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Don Krcil/ Volunteer	Jeff/ Tim S.
Greeters	Theresa Koupal		Mary Jo
Gift Bearers	Matt & Mieke Slaba Family	Charles Roth Family	Kara & Mick H. Family
Rosary	Don & Theresa Koupal		
Sacristan	Don Koupal		
Collection Counters	Fran Kocer/ Karol Kniffen	Charles Roth/ Adam Uchytel	Dave/ Ray

**LOOKING AHEAD
Monday, March 9**

NO MASS
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
Tuesday, March 10

NO MASS
Book Study at 3:30 p.m. at St. John's
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
Wednesday, March 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 & Lenten Confessions 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
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. at Assumption
Thursday, March 12

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Wagner GSC/Daily Rosary Following
Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
CDA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's (Light Supper Served Before Meeting)
Friday, March 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
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 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's
Saturday, March 14

Funeral Mass for Shirley Ridgway at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's
Confessions & Daily Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at St. John's
Stations of the Cross at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's
Sunday, March 15

Confessions at 8:00 a.m. at Assumption
Stations of the Cross at 8:30 a.m. at Assumption
Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption
Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's
CDA Soup Dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. John's
Lenten Study at 1:30 p.m. at Assumption

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
February 28	\$1727.00
Children's Collection	\$ 1.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:	
Votive Candle Offerings	\$ 66.25
Mass Stipends	\$ 180.00
Memorial	\$ 160.00
Earmarked Donations	\$ 150.00

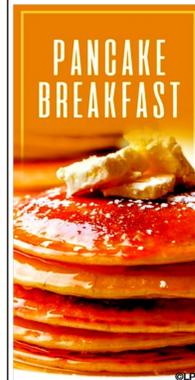


TOP YOUR TATER SUPPER

St. Ann's Catholic Church,
Geddes
Sunday, March 8

Serving from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MENU: Baked Potatoes with the Following
Toppings - taco, veggie, plain, ham & cheese.
Ice Cream Sundaes for Dessert
FREE WILL OFFERING
There will also be a bake sale!



**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!

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!

**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.

ST. JOHN'S CFSA UPDATE

As of Tuesday, March 3, \$16,185 has been collected for CFSA. This amount represents 53.1% 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 \$14,315. The 40 pledge cards/donations that have been received represent 19.3% 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.



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 DeGrood 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.



**YOUNG CHILDREN'S
BIBLE SCHOOL**

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

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!

LAST COLLAR STANDING: THANK YOU!

The 7th Annual Last Collar Standing was a huge success! Thank you to all of you who hosted watch parties and promoted this event at your parish. Through your generosity we were able to raise \$25,500 for Lumen Christi. Amazing! Thank you to all the priests who played this year, and a special congratulations to Father Grant Lacey, this year's winner! If you missed it, you can still watch the replay at sfcatholic.org/lcs

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.



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

March 10: Joan Novak (SJ), Courtney Sees (A); March 11: Paul Kuhlman (SJ); March 12: Jessica Peters (SJ), Daniel Rezac (A); March 13: Mike Novak (SJ), Danieka Heckenliable (SJ), Mardell Schroeder (SJ); Kyle Deurmier (A), Kelsey DeBay (A); March 14: Walter Ishmael (SJ), Mark Soukup (SJ), Mike Kuhlman (SJ); March 15: Rita A. Kocer (SJ), Peytyn Wiechmann (SJ), Cashton Kafka (A).

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



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:

HE IS THE LIVING WATER

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

When I think about the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, I think of my father. This Gospel reading that we use every year for the First Scrutiny of the RCIA was always my favorite to discuss with those who would be baptized in just a few weeks at the Easter Vigil. Not that many years ago, my father was one of those elect. That year, the story was more powerful than ever.

The woman went frequently to the well looking to get the water that would sustain her body. But in the story, Jesus tells her of a different kind of water, one that gives life and quenches even the driest of thirsts.

The story tells us that she put down her water jar and ran to the town telling of her encounter with the One who may be the Christ. She left that jar at the well. She did not need it anymore.

I encounter people all the time that spend their days going up the hill to draw water. They are tired and spent. My father was one of those. But with the gift of baptismal water, that constant chore is now over. There is no need to travel up that hill.

This Lent, if you are one of the baptized, reclaim the gift of your baptism. Stop climbing that hill in search of something that can only quench your thirst temporarily. You encountered Christ and have the everlasting, living water already. Put down that water jar. Your new life has only just begun.

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PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

WHEN GOD ASKS FOR WATER

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

One of my earliest memories is of my mother weeping.

The last few months of her pregnancy with my little brother were tremendously painful for her, and more than once the pain brought her to tears. I have a hazy image of her in my mind, belly swollen with a 12-pound baby lying transverse in the womb, sitting on the edge of her bed, dabbing at her face with toilet paper.

I had brought her the toilet paper. I would do that when I saw her crying, to wipe away her tears. I have a hazy memory of that, too — of the way my heart was wrenched by the sight of her suffering, of my desperation to do something to help, and of my immense satisfaction when she would take the toilet paper, smile and say, "Oh, thank you, sweetheart!" as if I had just airlifted her out of a war zone.

What a powerful gift to give to a child still learning the meaning of compassion and selflessness — the gift of being able to feel that she has, even in some small way, "rescued" a person she worships. Her smile of gratitude lives, immortal, in my mind, along with the swell of satisfaction it produced in the deepest corner of my heart. This was when I learned that it feels good to help people, and this memory is a perpetually replenished well of living water for me. I draw from it daily, three decades later.

This is a gift that Christ gives, over and over again, in the Gospels. He allows us to encounter him tired, afraid, sad and hungry. Omnipotent power subjected to the utter vulnerability of human form.

Before the Incarnation, God looked down from Heaven and said, "You are thirsty. Here is something to drink."

After the Incarnation, God sits down beside us and says, "I'm thirsty. Give me something to drink."

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Readings for the Week of March 8, 2026

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
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
Next 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

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DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

"I claim you for Christ by the sign of his cross." These words from the Rite of Baptism, spoken as the priest traces a cross on the infant's forehead, perfectly communicate the significance of that simple, familiar action. In signing the cross, we claim ourselves again and again for Christ, unite ourselves with His sacrifice on Calvary, and confess his victory over death.

Christians have been making the sign of the cross since ancient times, as evidenced by writings from Tertullian, Hippolytus and St. Cyprian. The ritual action is not only an important component of formal liturgies and sacramental rites, but also a daily devotional practice whereby the faithful invoke the blessing and protection of God.

In the Latin rite, it is made either with a movement of the full hand from one's forehead, breast and shoulders (going right to left) or with the thumb tracing the cross on the forehead, lips and breast

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