

GOSPEL MEDITATION: ASCENSION OF THE LORD

I recently read a book called "The Defining Decade" by psychologist Dr. Meg Jay. She convincingly argues that a person's 20s are the most impactful decade of one's life. For example, a twenty-something who waits until she has absolute clarity before making commitments typically drifts and regrets it later. But those who dive into something meaningful — even with doubts and questions — tend to grow and find joy and better outcomes in life. In other words, it takes courage, not perfect certainty, to move forward.

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, that insight comes alive in a new way. Matthew tells us: "When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted." (Matthew 28:17) Even standing before the risen Christ, the disciples were a mixture of adoration and hesitation. It is as though they were in their spiritual 20s...unsure, doubting, but nonetheless called to act in worship and mission.

Here is the key: Jesus does not tell them to wait until they are sure of things. He sends them anyway: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) The mission of the Church begins not with perfect certainty but with imperfect disciples who wonder and worship. Then they get going.

That is us, too. We may feel unsure of ourselves, perhaps full of hesitation about following Christ more fully. But now is not the time to wait for perfect clarity. Now is the time to worship and to go, trusting that he is with us always, even to the end of the age.

— Father John Muir

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**May 17, 2026
Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

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/](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,

St. Paul speaks of Jesus given "as head over all things to the church, which is his body..." As we celebrate Jesus' bodily Ascension to the right hand of the Father, as members of his body, we, too, are also taken up. Because we, in part, have already been brought into the Kingdom and have partaken of the heavenly banquet in the Eucharist, we long for the full realization and completion of this transformation. It is underway. Alleluia!

Completion of the cry room at Dante continues with a speaker

now installed. The funeral Mass for Ed Novak is at Wagner this Friday at 10:30. Marty has 'graduation Mass' today. I'll head promptly to see cousins meeting in Sioux Falls Sunday afternoon, and Mass Monday at Ponderosa assisted living where my mother is, and, I hope, a day and a half on the farm working on picture frames for Dante's old, restored Stations of the Cross. As we move into summer, take hold of Jesus' gift: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." And see if you can remember to wear RED next weekend for Pentecost!

Fr. Jim

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS

Wednesday, May 20
6:00 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement



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. 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.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 20
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
Friday, May 22
1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, May 23
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, May 24
8:15 a.m. - Assumption
3:00 p.m. - St. John's (Mercy Hour)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Transitional Diaconate Ordination
Matthew Harris, & Andrew Mullaney
May 28
11 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls
Priestly Ordination

Deacon Alex Leschisin
May 29
11 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls

Please pray for those to be ordained and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life!

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: MAY 17

- ◆ Saint Rita
- ◆ The Ascension: Sacred Art
- ◆ Saint Rita of Cascia: The True Story

NOVENA FOR ORDINATION

The Diocese will be doing a Novena for the ordination of Deacon Alex Leschisin to the priesthood and for Andrew Mullaney and Matthew Harries to the diaconate. This Novena will run from May 20th - May 29th. Please pick up a novena prayer card in the church entryway and pray it with others across the Diocese. See the next page (right) for other things that can be prayed for on each day of the novena.

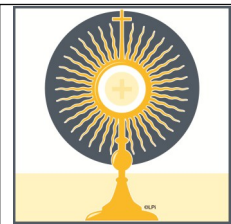
UNDER MARY'S MANTLE



During the month of May, prayer intentions can be placed in the basket located by the small statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary near the holy water font at St. John's. Intentions can be written on cards put in sealed envelopes and dropped in the basket. These intentions will remain private and will be prayed for during the praying of the daily Rosary at St. John's during the month of May.

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	May 18	Easter Weekday/ Saint John I, Pope & Martyr	NO MASS
Tuesday	May 19	Easter Weekday/	NO MASS
Wednesday	May 20	Easter Weekday/ Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Marie Soukup †
Thursday	May 21	Easter Weekday/ Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	10:00 a.m. - GSC	John Den Ouden †
Friday	May 22	Easter Weekday/ Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious	1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's	Benefactors
Saturday	May 23	Easter Weekday/ Vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday	9:00 a.m. - Marty Convent 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Oblate Sisters † Lisa Durham †
Sunday	May 24	Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Romaine Rezac † Father Hal Barber †



MERCY HOUR

Sunday, May 24
3:00 p.m.

St. John's Catholic Church

Eucharistic Adoration & Confession
Praise & Worship Music



ABBAY OF THE HILLS RAFFLE

A generous Abbey donor is matching every gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$30,000 in support of the Abbey's Capital Campaign and Gift of Peace! That means your gift goes twice as far! To help bring the campaign to completion and move forward with air conditioning in the auditorium and critical repairs to the roof, windows, and front entrance, the Abbey is offering a limited raffle. Only 500 tickets are available

at \$100 each, or \$1,000 for a book of ten. If all tickets are sold, prizes include: \$5,000 cash; A four-day, three-night Black Hills cabin stay for up to eight guests' \$300 cash; Plus, bonus drawings for 4 Minnesota Vikings home game tickets - game to be determined; 4 level-one tickets to a 2026 - 2027 Timberwolves home game - game to be determined. Purchase tickets at https://abbeyofthehills.networkforgood.com/events/100735-20226-capital-campaign-raffle-drawing?hid=NDY1NjJ3NTE=&utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_4623648

Drawing Date: July 15, 2026 at the picnic at the Abbey (if 500 tickets are sold); Otherwise, the drawing will be held at the Banquet on October 28, 2026.

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!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Saturday, May 23 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, May 24 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, May 24 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
"Serve the Lord with gladness" <small>- Psalm 100</small>			
EM	Sandy Seiner/ Mieke Slaba	Volunteer	Karen
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Teddy Slaba	Julie Uchytel	Tana/ Amy/ Georgia
Altar Servers	Clarah Soukup/ Windsor Soukup/ Willow Soukup	Trent Uchytel/ Josiah Krcil	Ridge/ Bladen
Music	Austin Genzlinger	Marilee Krcil	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Don Krcil/ Volunteer	Riley/ Dave L.
Greeters	Lynn & Kim Soukup		Judy
Gift Bearers	Jenni Soukup Family	Charles Roth	Andrea & Family
Rosary	Volunteer Needed		
Sacristan	Jim Thornton		
Collection Counters	Karen Kuhlman/ Paul Eggers	Charles Roth/ Adam Uchytel	Judy/ Ramona



May God bless these young people as they prepare for their high school graduation and embark on their future endeavors. They will be honored at Mass on May 17 (Marty).

**St. Paul's, Marty -
Sunday, May 17**
Kalea Kuhlman,
Daughter of Jeff & Rhonda Kuhlman
Ryann Langdeaux,
Daughter of George & Tana Langdeaux

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29: 11 -**

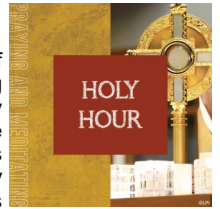


HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

In anticipation of the two upcoming ordinations on May 28 and 29, the Office of Vocations will be hosting holy hour for vocations at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph from 7-8 p.m on May 27. Join us in prayer as we pray for the men preparing for ordination to the priesthood and transitional diaconate, and for an increase in holy vocations in our diocese.

All are welcome.

If you are unable to attend or do not live in the Sioux Falls area, you can still join us in prayer by going to your parish and praying a holy hour for vocations.



ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
May 9	\$1364.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:	
Earmarked Donations	\$1550.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 20.00
Votive Candle Offerings	\$ 71.91

ST. JOHN'S ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

Tuesday, May 19
5:30 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement
Each Altar Society band should be represented by at least two members! Chairmen, please contact the members of your band to encourage them to attend.

REMINDER: UNCLAIMED PANS & BOWLS

Please check the table in the church basement for unclaimed pans and bowls that have been left after funeral dinners and/or parish potlucks! Bowls and pans that remain unclaimed will be put to use in the basement kitchen or donated to the Community Closet.

PARISH POTLUCK

Saturday, June 6
6:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Mass & Eucharistic Procession)
All are invited to join us for great food and fellowship!

ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY

Please check your mailbox for the mailing from St. John's Cemetery Board, and prayerfully consider how you can help the Cemetery Board in their efforts to raise funds to allow for upkeep and improvements at St. John's Cemetery!

MORE ON NOVENA FOR ORDINATION

Also, if you'd like, there are intentions for each day of the novena that you can also pray for: May 20 - For the success of this novena; May 21 - For a deeper love of the sacraments in our Diocese; May 22 - For a deeper conversion to the heart of Christ among the faithful of Diocese of Sioux Falls; May 23 - In reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart; May 24 - For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Sioux Falls (Pentecost Sunday); May 25 - For a greater love of Mary, the Mother of the Church (feast day); May 26 - For our priests; May 27 - For more vocations to the priesthood; May 28 - For Andrew Mullaney and Matthew Harris on the day of their diaconate ordination; May 29 - For Deacon Alex Leschisin on the day of his priestly ordination.

BROOM TREE DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

June 23
What God Wants Elderly People to Focus on the Most
Directed by Father Joe Vogel
August 25
The Penitent Lifestyle
Directed by Archbishop Gullickson
September 22
Directed by Father Jim Mason
October 13
Gratitude: The Gift that Keeps on Giving
Directed by Father Joe Vogel
November 10
Directed by Father Joe Forcelle

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.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is a conopaeum veil used to cover?

Answer: The tabernacle.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: LUMEN CHRISTI

We will be having a 5-day session this year.

The 7-12 grade dates are Sunday, June 28 - Thursday July 2 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The 1-6 grade dates are Monday, June 29 - Friday July 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mass will again be daily at 11:45 p.m.

A host family for the guys is needed.

Volunteers to host evening meals are needed.

Volunteers for the morning sessions are also needed.

Contact Norma Beeson 491-2961 and Stacy Holzbauer 491-0401.



Birthdays

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

May 18: Taylor Koupal (A), Cody Soukup (A); May 19: Carson Blaha (A), Kendall Deurmier (A), Avieleigh Slaba (SJ); May 21: Cole Fillaus (A); May 22: Joe Fillaus (A); May 23: Hailey (Hilzendeger) Beevers (A); May 24: Jim Cuka (SJ), Rilynn Soukup (SJ), Kylo Kazena (SJ).

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



Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to these couples who will celebrate wedding anniversaries this week:

May 18: Ron & Lynda Kafka (SJ); May 19: Terry & Vicki Koupal (A); May 21: Jim & Peggy Eggers (SJ); May 22: Rick & Kathy Zolnowsky (SJ); May 24: Bryce & Kami Soukup (SJ).

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

Readings for the Week of May 17, 2026

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25
 Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/
 Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 or, for the Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 62)
 Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

LOOKING TO THE SKY

In the past, I have been guilty of being a little depressed by the Ascension. Looking at it from a certain angle, it has the feel of a party that's coming to an end. The important guests have gone home and now it's time to turn the lights back on, switch off the music and start cleaning up.

Of course, if I view the Ascension in this light, I'm not really paying attention. I'm lingering on the mountain, staring at the sky,

wondering where God went and when He's coming back.

Christ, of course, is very much the "main event" of the Gospels, and so when he is no longer a physical, visible presence on earth — teaching, preaching, curing, dying, rising — we can be forgiven for feeling a little deflated. But the life of Christ is not a season of our favorite show. It's not a chapter in a book. It doesn't exist for consumption and entertainment, and it certainly doesn't come to an end.

It's easy to think of Christ at Mass when he is there before me in the Eucharist. It's easy to be about the work of God during

Lent or Easter. But what about the dreaded "Ordinary Time"? As full as the sky is of clouds, so the world is full of distractions: work, finances, health, politics. I struggle to see where God has gone in the midst of it all.

In reality, He is still here. He is here in the person I choose to love or to abandon. He is here in the truth I choose to embrace or to reject. He is here, waiting for me in the sacraments I all too often take for granted.

"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."
 — Matthew 28:2

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LOOKING AHEAD Monday, May 18

NO MASS
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Tuesday, May 19

NO MASS
Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Wednesday, May 20

Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following

Thursday, May 21

Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Good Samaritan Center/Daily Rosary Following

Friday, May 22

Confessions at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
Adoration at 2:00 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

Saturday, May 23

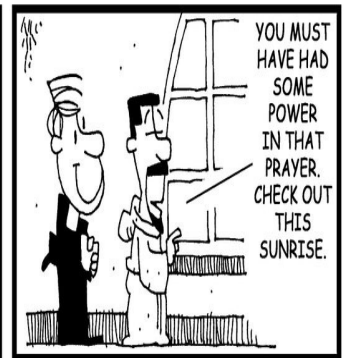
Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Marty Convent
Confessions at 4:30 p.m. at St. John's
Daily Rosary at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Sunday, May 24

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
Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's



ASCENSION



REFLECTION: WHERE DID HE GO?

Where did he go? Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us?

The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia. In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a foreshadowing of the fullness we all await!

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The Seed
Catholic Store



Hours: M-F 9-6pm
Sat 10-4pm

605-271-4055
3709 S. Grange Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD
Across from Costco