

GOSPEL MEDITATION: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We generally approach life with the question, "What can this do for me?" We try a new workout, a low-carb diet, intermittent fasting, or a new career path, hoping it will make us healthier, stronger, happier. The assumption is that if I invest in this, I'll eventually reap some benefit, or I won't do it.

It is easy to think of faith the same way: if I really practice my faith, what will it do for me? Will it make me calmer, more moral, more successful?

But in today's Gospel, Jesus says something astonishing. He doesn't present himself as a teacher who shows us the way to life. He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6) He is not merely a guide toward some higher benefit. He is the benefit itself. To know him is to know Life.

Thomas Aquinas explains that every desire in the human heart — love, joy, meaning, all of our restless cravings — is really an indirect cry for life. Even despair testifies to this longing: people despair precisely because they feel they are not, and might never be, fully alive.

The good news is that Jesus is not simply the means to a better life; He is Life itself. To believe in him is to share in God's own eternal vitality. Not simply later but even now. Faith is not a transaction that produces results — it is a union that fills us with joy. To be in communion with Christ is to be truly, fully alive.

— Father John Muir

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**May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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,

Road repair (Wagner) and building (Dante cry room/Marty restroom) is happening; our Scripture says we are to be built into a spiritual, holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices to God - this is the priesthood of the faithful, for all persons. A "priest" is one who offers sacrifice, whether the ordained offering Jesus' Body and Blood or the baptized offering their daily prayers, works, joys and sufferings. "Offer it up", do it "for the Lord", and become a "living stone" building a temple of God who will dwell within.

I am most grateful for so many whose work and prayer brought such a find celebration of Confirmation last Sunday. Parish councils met at Dante (note Jane Blaha gives a Sept 1st deadline for a replacement to be found/hired for cleaning) and at Wagner (a thorough report of all that the Cemetery Board is working on was given). Marty's Finance Council meets this Sunday after Mass while I'll be at the Lake Andes Mass and proceed on for two days with

my sister (and brother?) to see the house he purchased in the Hills. Come to the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church (on south Main, just north of South Housing) where our Ministerial is hosting National Day of Prayer (a day early) at 7pm this Wednesday - how good it is that we from the churches come together for a prayer service (and refreshments following)! How good, also, that we take part in CFSA: in Wagner the gift of over \$5000 coming back to St. Johns and in Dante being up to \$18,020 toward the \$18,500 goal - everything over that will, likewise, come back to the parish.

Praising God for the gentle rains and relishing May as the month of Mary, 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.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT OUR EVANGELIZATION EFFORTS

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 6
4:15 p.m. - St. John's

Friday, May 8
1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's

Saturday, May 9
4:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, May 10
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

HAPPY ORDINATION DAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Transitional Diaconate Ordination
May 28
11 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls

Priestly Ordination
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 3**
- ◆ The Boy from Milan: Stories of Carlo Acutis
 - ◆ St. Philip the Apostle: Catholic Saints
 - ◆ Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	May 4	Easter Weekday	NO MASS
Tuesday	May 5	Easter Weekday	NO MASS
Wednesday	May 6	Easter Weekday	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	Doug & Carol Eggers †
Thursday	May 7	Easter Weekday	8:30 a.m. - St. John's	For Our Country
Friday	May 8	Easter Weekday	10:30 a.m. - GSC	Keith Schroeder †
			1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's	Sister Miriam Shindelar
Saturday	May 9	Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Bonnie Novak †
Sunday	May 10	Fifth Sunday of Easter/Graduation Mass	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Patty Buus †
			11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Mothers of St. Paul's Parish

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!

DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT BROOM TREE
May 5 - Directed by Father Nick Haiar
"Lectio Divina: Hearing God's Voice in the Scriptures"

BROOM TREE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Beginning 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, May 5
7:00 p.m.
St. John's Church Basement

CELEBRATE Mother's Day

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 10
After 9:00 a.m. Mass
at Assumption
Assumption CCD Center

Sponsored by Wagner-Dante Knights of Columbus

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS MEETING

Thursday, May 14
6:30 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement

We will be packing May Baskets for shut ins - please come help with this worthwhile project. Please see next weekend's bulletin for the names of the members of the lunch committee!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

"Serve the Lord with gladness" <small>- Psalm 100</small>	Saturday, May 9 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, May 10 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, May 10 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Alice Koupal/ Don Koupal	Mike Beeson	Mary Jo
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Ray Soukup	Mike Beeson	Emma/ Amy/ Georgia
Altar Servers	Jessica Barnett/ Cooper Slaba/ Aveleigh Slaba	Wes Koupal/ Lane Koupal	Bennett/ Briggs
Music	Kim Soukup	Bernie Koupal	
Ushers	Gene Niehus/ Colin Soukup/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Jim Eggers	Bud Koupal/ Derek Koupal	Jeff/ Tim S.
Greeters	Theresa Koupal		Judy
Gift Bearers	Jay & Kim Kafka Family	Derek Koupal Family	Ryan & Abby K. Family
Rosary	Ray & Bonnie Soukup		
Sacristan	Don Koupal		
Collection Counters	Becky Brunsing/ Cletus Wiechmann	Bud Koupal/ Greg Krcil	Jason/ Sr. Miriam



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 Masses this weekend (Wagner & Dante) and on May 17 (Marty).

St. John the Baptist, Wagner - Saturday, May 2
Leighton Carda,
Son of Mike Carda & Gina Carda
Addison Cuka,
Daughter of Tyler & Larissa Cuka
Matthew Kokes,
Son of Jay & Lori Kokes
Shana Lensing,
Daughter of Ron & Trish Lensing
Slaten Podzimek,
Son of Jenni Soukup
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dante - Sunday, May 3
Kaden Mixon,
Son of Shawn & Penny Mixon
Katherine Swier,
Daughter of Scott & Theresa Swier
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 -


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.

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week	\$2750.00
April 25	\$ 486.00
Loose Collection *	\$ 361.00
Children's Collection	\$ 5.00
April 26 (Confirmation Mass) *	\$ 933.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:	
Earmarked Donation	\$ 250.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 70.00
Votive Candle Offerings	\$ 24.00
<i>*Earmarked for Home Missions</i>	

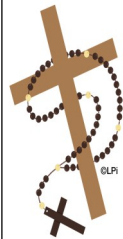
 *With her parents and the St. John's parish family, we welcome, through the waters of Baptism, McKenna Lu Cotton. McKenna is the daughter of Steven & Olivia Cotton and was baptized on Saturday, April 25, at St. John's. We rejoice in welcoming McKenna to the family of God!*

 *With his parents and the St. John's parish family, we welcome, through the waters of Baptism, Major James Kocer. Major is the son of Jordan & Misty Kocer and was baptized at Assumption on Sunday, April 26. We rejoice in welcoming Major to the family of God!*

LILIES & MUMS TO ADOPT

Easter plants losing flowers/petals are being removed from the sanctuary area at St. John's and will be placed in the collection counting room. Anyone who would like to take a plant (or two) home to plant outside, please feel free to do so! Please pick up plants soon - unclaimed plants will be disposed of.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN



Question: What is the first of the Sorrowful Mysteries?

Answer: The Agony in the Garden.

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FIAT DINNER

Who: Young Women Seeking God's Call
What: Mass, Dinner, and Talks with Bishop DeGrood and Religious Orders

- PES Sisters
- Adoration Sisters
- CTK Sisters
- Sisters of Mary Morning Star

When: Sunday May 17th, 4-8pm
Where: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery,
506 N Summit Ave, Sioux Falls
RSVP: sfwomensdiscernment.org



 The Assumption parish family extends heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Gladys Slaba. Gladys died on Wednesday, April 22. The funeral Mass for Gladys was held on Saturday, April 25, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dante, with burial in St. John's Cemetery, Wagner.

SENIOR BRUNCH

Assumption Parish will be honoring our high school graduates at our 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The parish is welcome to join us following Mass at the CCD Center for a brunch to celebrate this special event in their lives. We will be serving eggs, ham, rolls, coffee, juice and other goodies. Come congratulate them!



YOUNG CHILDREN'S BIBLE SCHOOL
Friday, May 8
9:00 a.m.
Assumption CCD Center

THANK YOU!

The following have made floral donations used to decorate the Assumption Church for Easter. Thank you to Marcia and Al Podzimek, Theresa Kocer, Lynn Stather and Jane Blaha for their donations of flowers and plants.

Thank You



Birthdays

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

May 4: Bill Kocer (SJ), Dwayne Koupal (A), Doreen Kuca (A), Shawn Smejkal (A), Colin Soukup (SJ), Henry Soukup (SJ); May 6: Martin Rezac (A), Marti Cimpl (A), Lindzie Fuhrer (A); May 7: Travis Krcil (A), Carter Fillaus (A), Traci Payer (SJ); May 8: Rose Koupal (SJ), Dashel Smejkal (A); May 9: Jamie Kuhlman (SJ), Sienna Kuhlman (SJ), Randy Rysavy (A), Felicity Krcil (A); May 10: Breanna Cuka (SJ), Ben Soukup (A).

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:

May 5: John & Diane Carda (A); May 8: Matt & Mieke Slaba (SJ); May 10: Mark & Robbin Cuka (A).

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

PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

THE WAY

A friend of mine who had family members belonging to several different religions once told me that there were as many different routes to Heaven as there were to the grocery store.

This was an analogy her family had used to remember that they all sought the same thing — God — even though they were going about the search in different ways.

I've thought a lot about her words in the years since she shared them with me. It's not an untrue analogy — there are a lot of different routes to the grocery store. An infinite number, in fact. There is actually no "right" way to get to the grocery store, because it all depends on where you're starting from and what other errands you have along the way.

And there are a lot of different routes to Heaven — likewise, an infinite number. It all depends on where you're starting from. It all depends on what you have to do along the way.

There it is: the part that matters. The way.

Whether we're talking about Heaven or the grocery store as our destination, all routes are not created equal. Some take too long. Some are impassable. Some are hard to navigate. Some are just plain made-up — the glitch of a GPS, the promise of a false prophet. And inevitably, if you take a less-than-ideal route, you will find yourself flagging down a pedestrian, asking, "I'm lost. Which way do I go?"

See, you can meander all you want. But in the end, you have to find The Way. And there's only one. Don't worry, though.

You'll know him when you see him.

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LOOKING AHEAD Monday, May 4

NO MASS

Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Tuesday, May 5

NO MASS

Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's

Wednesday, May 6

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 7

Morning Prayer at 8:10 a.m. at St. John's

Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following

Friday, 8

Young Children's Bible School at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption

Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Wagner Good Samaritan Center/

Daily Rosary Following

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

Saturday, May 9

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 10

Confessions at 8:15 a.m. at Assumption

Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Assumption

Knights of Columbus Mother's Day Brunch at 10:00 a.m. at Assumption (after 9:00 a.m. Mass)

Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's

Readings for the Week of May 3, 2026

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-2

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SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY, EXPLAINED

The Seven Sorrows of Mary refer to seven key events in the lives of Jesus and Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in Jerusalem, the meeting of Jesus and Mary as he carried his cross to Calvary, the Crucifixion and death of Jesus, the removal of the Body of Christ from the cross, and the burial of Jesus.

These events illustrate the great suffering endured by Our Lord and his Blessed Mother, and remind Christians to unite our own sufferings with those of Jesus, following Mary's perfect example.

Devotion to the sorrows of Mary dates to the early centuries of Christianity, with such proponents as St. Ephrem, St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Bridget of Sweden.

The Seven Sorrows devotion can take the form of seven Hail Mary's, seven Rosaries or a novena, all recited while meditating upon the individual sorrows.

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