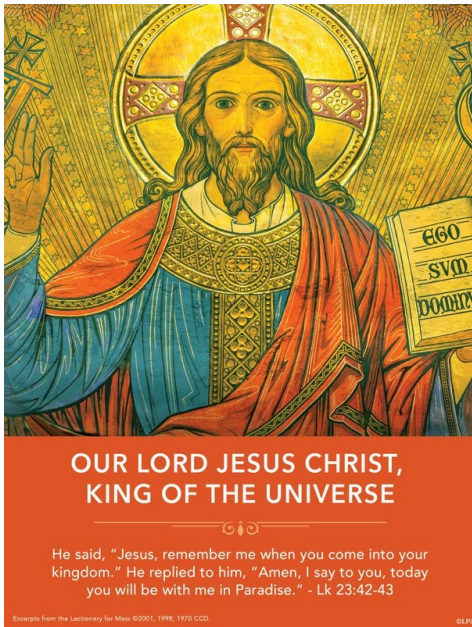




GOSPEL MEDITATION: SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That word — remember — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "You will be with me."

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir
©LPI



November 23, 2025
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

Holy Apostles Pastorate

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605-337-3710
Email Address:
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Fr. Jim Friedrich, Parochial Vicar
384-5518 or 605-933-9042
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wagner@holypostlessd.org

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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/>



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

Today, the feast of **Christ the King** marks the end of our liturgical year and celebrates Jesus as the ruler of all creation. It is always celebrated on the Sunday before the 1st Sunday of Advent. It's a joyful reminder that Christ's kingdom is not of this world alone but encompasses every heart that belongs to Him. This feast is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to live out our faith and to reflect on Jesus' kingship with our family.

What an awesome joy it has been for me to celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist this past week in Wagner, Dante, and Marty. I have been overwhelmed by all the kindness and generosity you have shown to me this past week. You truly are "salt of the earth" individuals.

Being close to Thanksgiving, I was given the opportunity to help in Marty's distribution of Feeding America; as well as serving food at the ecumenical dinner in Wagner this past Thursday.

I have so many good memories to take back with me to St. Paul. For the first time, I even participated in a Native American wake/funeral in Marty. Please keep the soul of Shirley Blacksmith, as well as her family in your prayers. I pray Fr. Jim has had a restful mini- vacation/retreat and is ready to begin the Advent season. I will keep all of you in my daily prayers. I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a reflective advent season!

God's blessing,
Fr. Dan

CRADLE CATHOLICS CLASS

1st Wednesday of each month:
Saints Peter & Paul in Dimock, SD at 6:00 PM
2nd Wednesday of each month:
St. Peter in Platte, SD at 6:00 PM
3rd Wednesday of each month:
St. John in Wagner, SD at 6:00 PM
(December date for Wagner TBD)

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 Closet 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!

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS/ SHUT-INS

The Catholic Daughters invite parishioners of all parishes to participate in their Christmas bags for shut-in project by placing a Christmas card or small gift/treat in the bags. The bags will be labeled with the names of those who are to receive them. The bags will be placed in the entryway of St. John's.

**Thank you,
Fr. Dan!**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 26
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
Friday, November 28
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, November 29
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, November 30
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: NOVEMBER 23

- ◆ *Sacred Art: Christ the King*
- ◆ *Who Is Jesus Christ?/with Sr. Bethany Madonna, SEEK23*
- ◆ *Who Is Jesus: The Search, Episode 5*



Please keep the following in your thoughts & prayers: Mary Hurd, Brenda George, Joe Nedved, Keith Kuca, Sylvia Beeson, Jay Swatek, Ken Cotton. 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.



EARLY DEADLINE NOTICE

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be an early deadline for the November 30 bulletin. Items for the November bulletin must be submitted by noon on Monday, November 24!

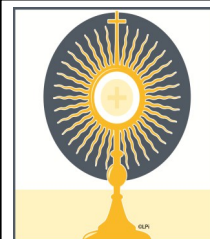
MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	November 24	Memorial of Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	5:00 p.m. - Grey Eagle Apts.	Kateri Circle Members
Tuesday	November 25	Tuesday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time/ Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr	NO MASS	
Wednesday	November 26	Wednesday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time Vigil of Thanksgiving Mass	5:00 p.m.. - St. John's 6:30 p.m. - Assumption	Jerry Barnett † Bill Slaba †
Thursday	November 27	Thursday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time/ Thanksgiving Day	NO MASS	
Friday	November 28	Friday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 a.m. - GSC 1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Wilbur Nedved † Margie Pavin †
Saturday	November 29	Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Charlie & Mary Cimpl †
Sunday	November 30	First Sunday of Advent	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Dennis Cihak † Nerissa Zephier †

Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

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MERCY HOUR

Sunday, November 23
3:00 p.m.
St. John's Catholic Church
Adoration, Confessions,
Praise & Worship Music

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES

First Catholic Slovak Ladies will meet on December 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Blahagio in Dante. We will have a short meeting with lunch to follow.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**"Serve the Lord
with gladness"**
- Psalm 100

	Saturday, November 29 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, November 30 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, November 30 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Gene Niehus/ Sandy Seiner	Volunteer	Alice
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Bonnie Soukup	Donna Smejkal	Tana/ Amy/ Sr. Pat
Altar Servers	Hannah Holzbauer/ Luke Holzbauer/ Rachel Holzbauer/ Luke Holzbauer	Dashel Smejkal	Emma/ Kalea
Music	Guitar Choir	Micky Hollmann	
Ushers	Jim Eggers/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Dean Abdouch	Matt Hill/ Jaxton Hill	Riley/ Bain
Greeters	Dorothy Holzbauer		Sr. Joan
Gift Bearers	Lynn & Kim Soukup	Matt Hill Family	Riley, Amy, & Family
Rosary	Ray & Bonnie Soukup		
Sacristan	Ray Soukup		
Collection Counters	Paul Eggers/ Karol Kniffen	Donna Smejkal/ Lynn Stather	Dave/ Ray

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, November 24

Daily Rosary at 4:30 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments
Mass at 5:00 p.m. at Grey Eagle Apartments

Tuesday, November 25

NO MASS

Daily Rosary at 5:30 pm. at St. John's
St. John's Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26

Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's
Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following
NO CCD at St. John's, Assumption, or St. Paul's (Thanksgiving)
Thanksgiving Mass at 6:30 p.m. at Assumption

Thursday, November 27

NO MASS

No Daily Rosary at St. John's

Friday, November 28

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

Saturday, November 29

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, November 30

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



CATHOLIC DAUGHTER MEETING

Monday, September 8

Potluck Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Friends & family are invited - this will be the court's Christmas party. There will be music, games, and white elephant gift exchange (for those who wish to exchange gifts).

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Tuesday, December 2
7:00 p.m.

St. John's Church Basement

ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00
November 15 \$1115.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated!

DECEMBER PARISH POTLUCK

Saturday, December 6
6:30 p.m. (After 5:30 p.m. Mass)
St. John's Church Basement

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS/PLANTS

If you would like to donate to assist with the purchase of plants/flowers for St. John's for Christmas, please pick up a Christmas Flower Donation envelope in the church entryway. Prices for various flowers and plants will be stapled to the envelopes. Envelopes/donations must be returned on or before Friday, December 12, so that the order can be placed with Stems & Cells.

ADVENT PROJECTS

The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 30. St. John's parishioners (as well as Assumption & St. Paul's parishioners) are invited to participate in one or both Advent projects at St. John's: Joy Jars and Reverse Advent Calendars. Joy Jars will be used to collect money which we donated to the local Ministerial Association for their charitable work. Money can be in containers that can be picked up in the church entryway. Copies of information about Reverse Advent calendars can also be picked up in the church entryway. Food collected with donations of various foods listed on the calendar can be delivered to local food pantries. Joy Jar collections can be left at the church. Individuals and families, and perhaps religious education classes/programs are encouraged to use the Advent season to use these Advent projects to reach out to the less fortunate in our area. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

Heartfelt sympathies to the family & friends of Shirley Blacksmith. Shirley died on Friday, November 15 in Sioux Falls. The funeral Mass for Shirley was Wednesday, November 19, at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Marty, with burial with Get the name of the Cemetery, Greenwood.

ANNUAL PRISON CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

The SD Prison Chaplains Assoc. is once again asking for donations for those incarcerated. Christmas is a very difficult and lonely time for inmates and this small gesture lets them know they are not forgotten. For some it is the only gift they will receive. Please join us in this beautiful act of charity and Corporal Work of Mercy "visit the imprisoned". Donations can be sent by November 30th to SD Prison Chaplains Assoc., Christmas Sacks, 601 W 57 th St., Sioux Falls SD 57108. Please write Christmas Sacks in the memo line or give electronically by visiting <https://www.convergeheartland.org/donate> and choose the SDPCA Christmas Sacks tab or by using the QR code below. Any questions ~ feel free to email Mo Irvine at prisonministry@sfcatholic.org.



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

November 24: Joan Fillaus, Randall Fuhrer;
November 25: James Zacharias, Andrew Krcil;
November 27: Valeria Merkwon, Shirley Soukup;
November 28: Weston Koupal, Owen Blaha;
November 30: Terence Krcil.

THANKSGIVING MASS MINSTRIES AT ASSUMPTION

Lector/EM: Danielle Krcil; Altar Servers: Kate Swier, Josiah Krcil; Music: Marilee Krcil; Gift Bearers: Don Krcil, Clayton Rados; Ushers: Don Krcil, Clayton Rados.



WAGNER COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Fire Hall

**Tuesday, December 9
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

Sponsored by
Wagner Community Memorial Hospital



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC –
BENEATH THE SURFACE

THE KING WHO HANGS BESIDE US

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name “Gestas.” In contrast to Dismas, “the good thief” who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. “Are you not the Christ?” he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It’s taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I’m lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don’t rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don’t do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don’t say, “Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you.”

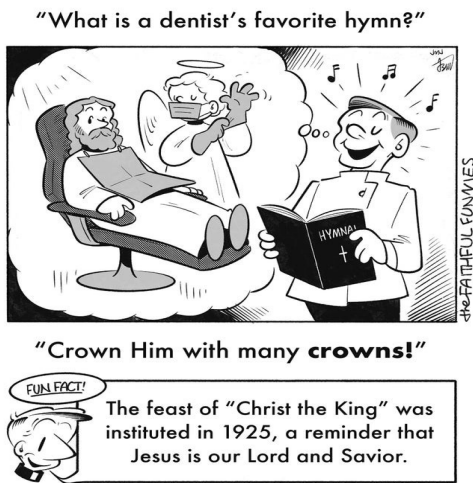
“Are you not the Christ?” I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: “Get me down. Take this cross away. I don’t want it. I can’t take it.”

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

IS CHRIST KING IN OUR HEARTS?

When you think of a king, who is the first person to pops into your head? It may depend on how much history you know, or which historical period intrigues you the most. As Americans, the first person we might think of is King George III, whose reign has become synonymous in our national lore with the concept of tyranny.

We don’t have much familiarity with kingship in modern American society. Kings tend to make us uneasy. Presidents, on the other hand — we can handle those, because we know we are a president’s boss. No matter how much power he has, we are the electorate. We are the source of that power. We’re comfortable with this arrangement.

But with kings it is profoundly different. Traditionally, the king derives his power from God. His rule bridges humanity with the divine.

We should reflect carefully on whether or not we have made Jesus Christ king in our hearts, or whether we regard him as a president. The difference isn’t just one of titles, it’s one of roles. Subjects do not demand anything of a king. They beseech. They entreat. They submit, and they accept.

Do we demand of Christ, or do we beseech? Do we tolerate God’s edicts with grumbling, or do we embrace His word as the means of our reconciliation with Him?

The “good thief” treated Christ as a king. His counterpart treated him as a president. And it’s worth remembering that Jesus Christ is not the President of the Universe.

— Tracy Earl Welliver

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

HOW WOULD YOU RULE YOUR KINGDOM?

It would be kind of awesome to be a king or queen! Absolute rule, untold wealth, and people answering your every beck and call are things that wouldn’t be half bad. Of course, I would be a benevolent monarch, and I would hope that all my subjects would love me. They could cheer me as I came out of the palace, and I think my popularity ratings in the polls would be through the roof. But if they weren’t, that would be fine, too, because I would rule the kingdom. And that means no throwing me out of office. Talk about job security!

As great as that sounds, the King of kings could have had all that as well, but instead, he chose quite a different path. He gave up absolute rule so all his subjects could have the free will to choose to follow him. He gave up untold wealth so he could be treated like a common criminal and receive a death sentence. He gave up having servants at his disposal so he could be the servant of all his subjects himself. Yes, he was the King of kings, but he was nothing like a typical king. As much as I think it would be great to be a king myself, I would rather emulate this King instead.

Who would you rather be like? You could have it all or choose to give away everything. You could choose a path of luxury or a path of trial. You could be respected by many or find yourself in a culture that increasingly finds you objectionable. Who would you rather be like? Do you arrive at an answer quickly, or do you need some time to think about it? The King of kings awaits your reply.

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