

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass - 2002, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy What About Bob? Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir
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September 14, 2025
Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Holy Apostles Pastorate

Fr. Thomas Clement, Pastor
605-337-3710
Email Address:
frthomasclement@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,

Calendar dates have fallen this year to give us several 'big name' feast days on Sundays that otherwise only daily Mass goes experience - today being the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast, in part, is connected with the finding of the true Cross by St. Helena in the 300's. I find the account of this to be credible, wonderful and grace-filled; that we have a relic of the true Cross at Wagner (I've mounted it at the head of a large crucifix I made) is all the more a cause of thanks. I've set out handouts on all this in the past

but am making more again. Those in the OT who looked upon the bronze serpent on the pole were saved from death, "so must the Son of Man be lifted up" on a cross for us to look upon, believe, and be saved for eternal life.

It was good that a parishioner brought up the idea of locking St. Johns ramp door once Mass has begun as one less entrance someone of bad intent would be able to use. It was wonderful to see the KCs get volunteers together to put a sprinkler system in to finish landscaping and redoing the rectory back lawn. Its

good to be aware that the Diocese tech people advised us on new computers for Dante and Wagner (we just had the old Windows 10 or whatever) and provide the transferring of info from the old to the new. Also, I just got new computer check blanks for Wagner through the Diocese - a significant savings over purchasing them elsewhere. Marty, too, has had much attention being given to the work of rock and metal repairs on the steeple. Blessings on silent, unseen laborers in the vineyard!

Peace,
Fr. Jim

CONFESSION SCHEDULE
Wednesday, September 17
4:15 p.m. - St. John's
Friday, September 19
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday, September 20
4:30 p.m. - St. John's
Sunday, September 21
8:15 a.m. - Assumption

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: SEPTEMBER 14

- ♦ *The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- ♦ *Stations of the Cross by St. Alphonsus Liguori*
- ♦ *The Seven Sorrows of Mary: Brother Francis*

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



VOCATIONS UPDATE

This next year, we welcome two new seminarians. Asher Bucholz (Brookings) and Michael Yandell (Sioux Falls) will begin their seminary formation. Asher will be attending St. John Vian-

ney College Seminary and Michael will be attending St. Paul Seminary. Please keep these two and all our seminarians in your prayers!



**SD RIGHT TO LIFE
ESSAY CONTEST
THEME:
WHY I'M PRO-LIFE!**

Junior Division: Grades 6 to 8
Senior Division: Grades 9 to 12
Each Division Winners: 1st Place, \$400; 2nd Place, \$300;
3rd Place, \$200; 4th Place, \$100

Essays must be 300 to 500 words and will be judged on originality, content, accuracy. The deadline for submitting essays is November 1. Email essays and any questions to jenn.sdrtl@gmail.com.



The **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)** is a year-long process of prayer, learning, and reflection designed for those seeking to become Catholic, those seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, and for those simply exploring the Catholic faith. It is open to all adults ages 18+. Contact Fr. Tom, Fr. Jim, Fr. Gary or Sr. Maribeth if interested. See their contact information on the front page of the bulletin!

MASS SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Memorial/Feast Day	Mass Location/Time	Intention
Monday	September 15	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	NO MASS
Tuesday	September 16	Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	NO MASS
Wednesday	September 17	Wednesday of the 24 th Week in Ordinary Time/ Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Opening CCD Mass	5:00 p.m. - St. John's 6:45 p.m. - Assumption	Don & Bonnie Novak (Anniversary) † Fr. John Maliyekal †
Thursday	September 18	Thursday of the 24 th Week in Ordinary Time	8:30 a.m. - St. John's	Ralph & Emma Koupal †
Friday	September 19	Friday of the 24 th Week in Ordinary Time/ Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Margie Pavin †
Saturday	September 20	Vigil of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Norman Woods †
Sunday	September 21	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Gladys Slaba Cheryl Selwyn † & Leonita Lasley

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

Religious education classes will begin soon! All members of the diocese who are required to be compliant with the Safe Environment Policy (all clergy, religious, employees, as well as those whose ministry serves minors or vulnerable adults) are required to renew their compliance. Log in to CMG Connect and renew your compliance: <https://siouxfalls.cmgconnect.org/>. If you are currently employed or in ministry, your due date for completion is July 31, 2025. For all those who periodically minister (like religious education catechists or Catholic school staff), they must be compliant BEFORE they are in ministry or are active in their employment capacity. Please note that sacristans are now required by the Diocese to complete the necessary Safe Environment training/background check.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our 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!

31ST ANNUAL BISHOP'S CHARITY HUNT

Monday & Tuesday, September 15-16
Horseshoe K Lodge, Kimball

The event includes guided hunt with transportation, breakfasts & dinners on Sunday & Monday, on Monday & Tuesday, social on Sunday & Monday with open bar/unlimited heavy appetizers, one (1) night lodging, trap shoot, lunch in the field, bird cleaning, Mass with Bishop DeGrood.. To register or become a sponsor, please visit <https://ccfesd.org/events/bishops-charity-hunt/>. Proceeds benefit Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in our Diocese.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GUN RAFFLE

The Knights Gun raffle is going on! Tickets will be for sale at St. John's bazaar, Knights' meetings, and at So-Co Pioneer. Proceeds from the raffle are used to help pay for our yearly scholarship and other activities within the churches! This year we have a 12 gauge shotgun, and the drawing will take place at the Knights' November meeting! Only 200 tickets will be sold.
1 ticket for \$20
6 for \$100

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

	Saturday, September 20 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, September 21 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, September 21 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
EM	Gene Niehus/ Don Koupal	Pam Roth	Mary Jo
Lector/ Cantor/ Intercessions	Bonnie Soukup	Pam Roth	Tana/ Sr. Miriam/ Sr. Pat
Altar Servers	Clarah Soukup/ Windsor Soukup/ Willow Soukup	Kate Swier/ Josiah Krcil	Nariah/ Tegan
Music	Austin Genzlinger	Marilee Krcil	
Ushers	Jim Eggers/ Paul Eggers/ Lynn Soukup/ Dean Abdouch	Don Krcil/ Clayton Rados	Jason/ Riley
Greeters	Lynn & Kim Soukup		Sr. Joan
Gift Bearers	Jay & Kim Kafka Family	Don Krcil/ Clayton Rados	Riley, Amy, & Family
Rosary	Ray & Bonnie Soukup		
Sacristan	Don Koupal		
Collection Counters	Dorothy Holzbauer/ Paul Eggers	Josie Rezac/ Karen Peters	Dave/ Jason

LOOKING AHEAD Monday, September 15

NO MASS

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

Tuesday, September 16

NO MASS

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

Wednesday, September 17

Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's

Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following
Opening CCD Mass at 6:45 p.m. at Assumption

Thursday, September 18

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, September 19

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, September 20

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, September 21

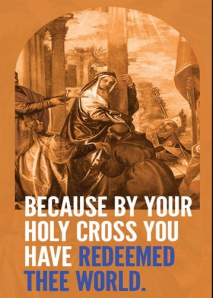
Confessions at 8:15 AM at Assumption

Mass at 9:00 AM at Assumption

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

BROOM TREE DAYS OF RECOLLECTION

September 16 – "Devotion to the Holy Face," directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer; October 14 – "Pro Sanctity: Holiness in Everyday Life," directed by Jackie Sempek; November 11 – TBD, directed by Dr. Chris Burgwald; December 9 – TBD, directed by Fr. Tom Anderson. Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and include conferences, time for adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested. Contact broomtree@sfcatholic.org or 605-263-1040.



ST. JOHN'S COLLECTION

Amount Needed Each Week \$2750.00
September 6 \$3175.00
Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated! The following amounts were also received:
Earmarked Donation \$ 50.00
Donation Via Grain Sale \$1440.72

MISSING ANYTHING?

There are still coats, sweaters, bowls, pans in the church basement. There are also items in the lost and found container in the church entryway. Please check the basement or church entryway and reclaim an items that might be yours!

ST. JOHN'S MY PARISH APP

St. John's parishioners who have smartphones or tablets are encouraged to use the My Parish app. To download the app, simply text App to 55321. This will give you access to Mass times, the weekly bulletin, daily readings, favorite prayers and much more! More importantly, we would like to use My Parish app groups to relay information regarding schedule changes, the prayer chain, funeral committee, and other parish groups. Contact Theresa Koupal if you have questions or need help downloading the app

ST. PAUL'S MY PARISH APP

St. Paul's parishioners who have smart phones or tablets are encouraged to use the My Parish app, which comes to parishioners FREE. To download the app, simply text App to 55321. This will give you access to Mass changes, faith formation updates, and the ministry assignment list. Please pick up the cards that contain download information - the cards can be picked up in the church entryway.

SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION

Would you like to offer a presentation about the Shroud of Turin in your pastorate, parish or group? Michael Moran, a doctor in Watertown, just finished a one year, 22 credit hour, post graduate certificate in Turin Shroud studies online in Rome at the Pontifical Atheneum Regina Apostolorum's Faith and Science Institute, the only place currently offering this degree. He has a life-sized replica of the Turin Shroud, a life sized replica of the negative (black and white) Shroud image, replicas of the lance, the nails, and the Roman scourge to examine. He is available and happy to present a Power Point presentation and Q-and-A session to any pastorate, parish or group to share his knowledge about the Shroud and the latest scientific studies on it. If you are interested in this presentation, contact Michael at eyeguy@wat.midco.net or 605-881-6439.

SAVE THE DATE:

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Benefiting the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and St. Joseph Cathedral Endowments
December 18-21
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls

For more information on each event, visit our website at www.ccfesd.org/events or call 605-988-3701.

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

September 15; Julie Tolsma; September 16: Angela Deurmier, Tyler Koupal; September 17: Ryan Cihak, Claire Koupal; September 18: Aaron Beeson; September 19: Terri Rezac, Chance Blaha; September 20: Clayton Rados; September 21: Joe Podzimek, Adam Uchytel, Madilyn Mudder.

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

September 18: Jordan & Alexa Wunder; September 20: Michael & Jody Kotab; September 21: Ross & Jen Beeson



TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Teachers and volunteers needed to help with the CCD program at Assumption Parish. Contact Norma Beeson 605-491-2961 for details.

ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING, DANTE

September 14 after Mass
Soup Dinner Topic; Band 1 has meal; Band 2: activities. Please attend to make a successful event.

ASSUMPTION PARISH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

(Following our 9:00 a.m. Mass)
Please bring something to share as the Tyndall Bakery is closed for rest and repairs. All are WELCOME!

Let's Have Fun!

SAVE THE DATE!!

St. John's Family Fun Day
Sunday, September 28
St. John's Catholic Church
Food - Games - Music - Fun!

Please pick up your letters in the church entryway or watch the mail for your letters. Members of the raffle committee will be in the church entryway accepting donations for raffle prizes.

You're Invited!

Support Her
Protect Her

SD Right to Life Convention
Sept. 26-27, 2025
Faith Lutheran Church
714 N. Grand in Pierre

Pierre Area Right to Life
is excited to host the 54th Annual SD Right to Life State Convention. Please join us for this uplifting event!

Great local and nationally renowned speakers!

Sessions/Activities for all ages

Lunch & Daycare Provided!

For more information, go to
sdrighttolife.org or use the QR code on
the bottom of the page!

To join the local effort, go to
pierrearearighttolife.org or follow us on
Facebook at PierreAreaRightToLife.

54
South Dakota Right to Life
2025-2026

Great food, youth breakout session, special music, basket row, and 30+ exhibitors!

Register now at www.SDRightToLife.org

Questions? Call the SDRTL Office: 605-220-8678
or email us: Dale.SDRTL@gmail.com.



**ST. PETER'S TURKEY DINNER & BAZAAR/
COUNTRY STORE BOOTH & GAMES**



Sunday, October 5
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Platte Community Center
Adults: \$18



Kids 12 & Under: \$9
*Serving Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Coleslaw, Cranberry Salad, Vegetables, Rolls,
Pie/Dessert*

**DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED:
LITANY**

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often "hear our prayer" or "pray for us"). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

The basis of the word "litany" comes from the Greek word for "supplication" or "petition." In a litany, the leader will make an appeal or a statement and the congregation will make the response. Litanies can also be said by one person acting as both the leader and the respondent.

Many litanies have been written, including litanies to the Holy Name of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, the Most Precious Blood, litanies appealing to the intercession of various saints, and litanies to the Blessed Mother under her different titles. There are also litanies composed for the attainment of graces and virtues, including the Litany of Humility and the Litany of Trust.

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**CATHOLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
DAILY PRAYER VS MASS**

Question:

I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer:

If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

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WEEKLY READINGS: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-1

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**ST. MARK'S
FALL SUPPER**



Sunday, October 12
Parish Hall, Lake Andes
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Adults: \$15

Age 6 to 12: \$6
5 and Under: Free

*Serving Swiss Steak,
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn,
Salads, Pies, Desserts, Rolls, Drinks
Prize Drawing at 7:30 p.m.*



**PRACTICING CATHOLIC: BENEATH THE SURFACE
THE CROSS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE**

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is tough, and to do it you have to make a decision to be tough, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness is for wimps, because the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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