

GOSPEL MEDITATION: 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand-new laptops to managers in other stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. "Really great work, John," he said. "I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay." I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus' brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the "master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently" (Luke 16:8). What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don't care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good he wants us to use his stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it!

— Father John Muir
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September 21, 2025
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Apostles Pastorate

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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/>



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
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Prayer Chain:
Cindy Krcil 384-3585
Marilee Krcil 286-3907

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

"Lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity," Paul writes in our second reading. Do we choose to feed our curiosity about all the words and indignities broadcast in so much of the social media, or are we first of all concerned to nourish our souls with what is wholesome, inspiring and edifying? What we eat is what we become. Paul calls us to pray for kings and all in authority; let the positive things we are able to bring to our world motivate the attention we give to news.

Can our prayer and efforts build a culture of life in our land? The annual state convention for SD Right to Life this Fri and Sat the 26th-27th in Pierre can inspire and instruct us in

this: www.SDRighttoLife.org. Watch for details on a movie at our theatre Sun Sept 28th and Wed Oct 1st on St. Maximilian Kolbe (statue on Wagner's back altar). Wagner's Parish Councils meet at 7pm this Tues. I'll be with Marty Faith Formation this Wed. The funeral for Patty Buus is 2:30pm this Fri. at Wagner. Our Family Fun Day is next Sun. from 11am-2pm at St. Johns.

Peace,
Fr. Jim

Join us for St John the Baptist Catholic Church's Family Fun Day! Sunday September 28th in the backyard of the church from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy a meal, fellowship, music, and games with friends and neighbors. Everything is provided, just bring yourself and your family. Can't wait to see you there!

We hope to see you at St. John's Family Fun Day on September 28 - please bring your lawn chairs!

CONFESSION SCHEDULE Wednesday, September 24

4:15 p.m. - St. John's

Friday, September 26

1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's

Saturday, September 27

4:30 p.m. - St. John's

Sunday, September 28

8:15 a.m. - Assumption

3:00 p.m. - St. John's

(Mercy Hour)

THIS WEEK ON FORMED: SEPTEMBER 21

- ◆ Padre Pio: Miracle Man
- ◆ Saint Matthew: Catholic Saints
- ◆ Padre Pio: Between Heaven & Earth

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.



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 22	Monday of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time	NO MASS
Tuesday	September 23	Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	5:30 p.m. - Assumption	Deacon Arvid Holsing †
Wednesday	September 24	Wednesday of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time/	5:00 p.m. - St. John's	John & Beatrice Soukup †/ Leona Soukup †
Thursday	September 25	Thursday of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time	8:30 a.m. - St. John's	Jerry Barnett †
Friday	September 26	Friday of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time/ Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs	1:00 p.m. - St. Paul's	Dorothy Paulis †
Saturday	September 27	Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest	9:00 a.m. - Marty Convent	Oblate Sisters †
		Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Ed Novak Family
Sunday	September 28	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Charlie & Mary Cimpl †
			11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	Jon Doom †

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!



SPECIAL SHOWING: TRIUMPH OF THE HEART

Sunday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Wagner Theater

Ages 14!

For more movie information, look on Facebook or call 384-4321.

A story of hope. Of love that heals what the world breaks. Of hearts that ache, and hearts that find their way back to life again. The tears will come. The silence will break. The wounds will begin to close. Go see Triumph of the Heart. Let it remind you what's still possible.

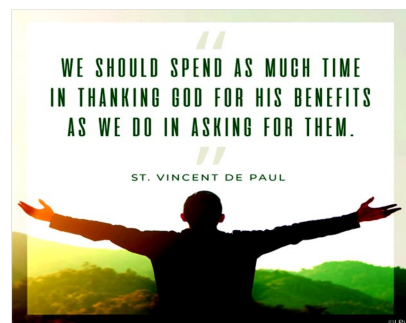
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GUN RAFFLE

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				LOOKING AHEAD Monday, September 22	
"Serve the Lord with gladness" <small>- Psalm 100:2</small> EM Lector/Cantor/Intercessions Altar Servers Music Ushers Greeters Gift Bearers Rosary Sacristan Collection Counters	Saturday, September 27 5:30 p.m. - St. John's	Sunday, September 28 9:00 a.m. - Assumption	Sunday, September 28 11:00 a.m. - St. Paul's	NO MASS Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Tuesday, September 23 Mass at 5:30 p.m. at Assumption Daily Rosary at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Wednesday, September 24 Adoration & Confessions at 4:15 p.m. at St. John's Mass at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's/Daily Rosary Following Family Night/Potluck at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's (Fr. Jim Teaching/Amy's Group To Attend Magnify at the Mount) CCD at 6:45 p.m. at Assumption Thursday, September 25 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 26 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 27 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, September 28 Confessions at 8:15 AM at Assumption Mass at 9:00 AM at Assumption Mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's St. John's Family Fun Day 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's	
	Barb Johannsen/Don Koupal	Volunteer	Tana		
	Matt Slaba	Donna Smejkal	Georgia/Amy/Georgia		
	Cooper Slaba/Jaylee Kafka/Avieleigh Slaba	Ethan Blaha/Logan Blaha	Emma/Kalea		
	Kara Hanan	Micky Hollmann			
	Gene Niehus/Jarred Niehus/Colin Soukup/Richard Nedved	Matt Hill/Jaxton Hill	Bennett/Bain		
	Barb Johannsen		Mary Jo		
	Jenni Soukup Family	Matt Hill Family	Jason, Lindsey, & Family		
	Don & Theresa Koupal				
	Don Koupal				
	Fran Kocer/Karol Kniffen	Donna Smejkal/Lynn Stather	Ramona/Judy	BROOM TREE DAY OF RECOLLECTION October 14 - "Pro Sanctity: Holiness in Everyday Life," directed by Jackie Sempek. Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and include conferences, time for adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 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 13 \$1268.00 Thank you for your generosity - every gift matters and is appreciated!				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.	
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POTLUCK Saturday, October 4 6:30 p.m. (After Mass) St. John's Catholic Church Basement Please join us for great food and fellowship (and a celebration of Father Jim's birthday, on October 2)!				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.	
ST. JOHN'S MY PARISH APP St. John's parishioners who have smartphones or tablets are encouraged to use the My Parish app, which comes to all parishioners FREE because the Altar Society has paid for the subscription. 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! 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				Happy Birthday to these Assumption parishioners who will celebrate birthdays this week: September 22: Jillian Beeson; September 23: Allen Cihak; September 26: Brenda Mudder, Greg Krcil; September 27: Jeff Beeson; September 28: Dolores Kotab, Veretta Kelly, Tyler Krcil, Amy Blaha, Penny Mixon, Josiah Krcil.	
ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?  There are still several jackets and sweaters on the coat rack in St. John's church basement, unclaimed bowls, containers, and pans on the table in the church basement, and lost and found items in the church entryway. Please check the church basement or church entryway to reclaim items that might be yours.				Happy Anniversary to these Assumption parishioners who will celebrate wedding anniversaries this week: September 22: Ernest & Mary Kay Rezac	
				 TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Teachers and volunteers needed to help with the CCD program at Assumption Parish. Contact Norma Beeson 605-491-2961 for details.	
				 DANTE ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS SOUP DINNER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 Serving from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sign up sheets for HAMBURGER, BID-A-BASKET, DECORATED CAKE, AND KIDS RAFFLE are in the back of the church.	
				THE JESUS PRAYER, EXPLAINED! The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy." ©LPi	



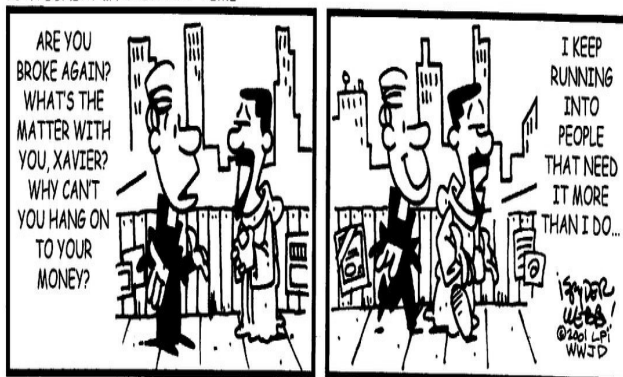
DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED: THE JESUS PRAYER

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



WEEKLY READINGS: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

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 16:10-13
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-3

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP: RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS FIXING THE SCALES

Most people don't intend on being selfish. The reality of selfishness usually lies in the grey shades of our decision-making. We would never go out of our way to kick a homeless person begging by the highway exit. We would never steal money from our parish collection plate.

But would we drive past the homeless person without even extending a thought or a prayer toward his need? Would we justify stinginess in time, talent, and treasure because of our own comfort? We all have been guilty of transgressions such as these in the past. We will fall again in the future.

Most of the evil in this world can be traced back to a feeling of entitlement that lurks deep within each of us — a frantic concern for our own good that we find difficult to shake. The same instinct that compelled Eve to reach for the fruit that would give her the knowledge of good and evil still compels people to focus on what they are owed, on what they have "earned," on what they have "coming to them." We are so tempted to fix the scales. We are so tempted to keep score.

We would do well to remember that our God is not a God who keeps score. He is not a God who acts entitled or who tacks on extra dues, taking as much as He can get. He is a God who seats the lowly with princes. He is a God who seeks avenues for reconciliation and mercy.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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CATHOLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FISH ON FRIDAY

Question: Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

Answer: For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church's thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on "why we do what we do" among the Church's pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.

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