

The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 23rd, 2026

Among the various Gospel readings that we have Sunday after Sunday, I think this particular lesson is one that every one of us probably feels we can easily be drawn into that situation, put ourselves there with the disciples as Jesus says, "Who do people say I am?" And I think it's easy to imagine how they must have kind of chatted with one another, "Well, what have you heard? What have I heard?" And they come up then with these answers: "Some say you're John the Baptist." That would be John risen from the dead because he had been put to death by Herod, and Herod was very frightened of that possibility.

"But then others," the disciples said, "well, they say you're Elijah or Jeremiah, one of the other prophets." But then comes the really important question to those disciples and to every one of us: "Who do you say that I am?" "Who do you say that I am?" This is Jesus now, who we learn about through the Gospels: "Who do you say?" And that question, of course, is key to everything in our faith. Are we ready to say with Peter, "You are the Christ, the chosen one, the son of the living God"? And so we try to enter into this and see if we're ready to say to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Messiah, the son of the living God."

There are many various commentaries about this Gospel lesson that then speak about this rock upon which Jesus builds the church, and the most ancient commentary understood that Peter was a type of every disciple, of every one of us. So if we can say, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God," Jesus is saying to us, "This is a gift of faith. God has helped you to know this." And so as a disciple, each one of us can also say, "Yes, Jesus is the Christ."

So it's the whole church, every disciple, who responds to this question by saying to Jesus, "You are the Christ." That's the rock of which the church is built, the rock of the faith of all of us. It's not just Peter and his faith that is the rock on which the church is built. This is reinforced later in Matthew's Gospel, where Matthew has Jesus saying to all of the disciples, "I say to you, whatever you bind on earth, heaven will keep bound. Whatever you unbind on earth, heaven will keep unbound."

And so we, who are the church, are the rock foundation. Our faith is a rock foundation of the community of disciples of Jesus. And of course, that's for each of us a blessing, a grace that God has enabled us to have this faith. It's a gift to be able to say about Jesus, who was fully human, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." But when we do make that pronouncement of faith and claim then our discipleship, we are part of this church of community of disciples throughout the whole world on who the church depends as the rock.

The church is built on us as the rock, and of course, I know we all are blessed because of this, but also it presents to us a very real challenge as disciples of Jesus to follow him, to accept his teachings, to live according to his way. It's very strange, almost, that Peter, the one who is the first to proclaim his faith in Jesus, in a very short time shows his inadequacy ... Shortly after this happened, Matthew tells us, "From that day, Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem."

"He would be handed over to his enemies, suffer many things from the Jewish authorities, that he would be killed, and be raised on the third day." And when Jesus said this to the disciples, Peter immediately objects. Peter took Jesus aside and began to reproach him: "Never, no! This must not happen to you." See, I think Jesus is trying to show Peter the way that Jesus wanted his disciples to follow him so that when he's handed over to his enemies, he doesn't take up the sword to fight back. He allows himself to be tortured, executed, be put to death.

And when Peter objected, Jesus says to Peter, "Get behind me, you Satan! You're a stumbling block! You are an obstacle. You are not thinking as God does, but as people do." Even though Peter is the first disciple among all the disciples and is the beginning of this rock on which the whole church is built, he finds it difficult to accept the way of Jesus.

See, this is the time, it's toward the end of the public life of Jesus, and there are huge followings, and some of the disciples have begun to think that Jesus is going to be a warrior king like David. He will lead an army to overthrow the Roman occupiers, and that's what Jesus is rejecting -- any kind of violence, any kind of war that would try to correct injustice or violence by more violence, and that's what Peter couldn't accept. Jesus then goes on to say, "If you want to be my disciple deny your very self and follow me. Follow me, my way of love, rejecting all violence."

And just as that was very hard for Peter to accept -- and probably the other disciples, too, although Peter was the one who spoke out -- it's very hard for us to accept. But if we're really going to be that rock of faith that is the foundation of the whole church, we must try to let ourselves be changed in our thinking.

Have a blessed week.



Contact Us

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For a full list of staff, please visit our website at www.avemariapastorate.org.

Ave Maria Catholic School: 605-886-3883 **Pg 4** **Office of Discipleship & Evangelization (Faith Formation)** 605-878-2055 **Pg 7**

Bulletin deadline is no later than 12:00 pm on Tuesday. Please submit your bulletin news to Lisa Lane: llane@avemariapastorate.org.

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick:

If someone is in need of anointing by a priest, please call the office to schedule an appointment. The emergency priest line (605) 884-5088 is for requesting last rites.

Baptism:

Please call your parish or visit our website and complete the baptismal form. **Baptism classes are required for first time parents. Classes are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Angelus Center at Holy Name of Jesus Parish at 6:30pm.**

Preregistration is required for the class.

Please visit www.avemariapastorate.org for more details.

Matrimony:

Six months of preparation with a priest is required prior to the wedding date. Please call your parish office to make an appointment.

Mass Times

Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown:

Sat. 4:00pm (odd months); Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am

Immaculate Conception, Watertown:

Sat. 4:00pm (even months); Sun. 9:00am & 11:00am

Blessed Sacrament, Florence: Sun. 8:30am

Holy Rosary, Kranzburg: Sat. 5:30pm

St. Michael, Clark: Sun. 11:00am



Ave Maria
Website

Confession

Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown:

Fri. 8:00am-8:20am; Sat. 3:00pm-4:00pm (odd months)

Immaculate Conception, Watertown:

Tues. Wed. & Thurs, after 12:10pm Mass, or

Sat. 3:00pm-4:00pm (even months)

Blessed Sacrament, Florence: 30 minutes before Mass

Holy Rosary, Kranzburg: 30 minutes before Mass

St. Michael, Clark: 30 minutes before Mass

Are you interested in joining a Parish in our Pastorate?

Visit our website, hover over About and click on "Join a Parish" and complete the Google form.

Ave Maria Pastorate News:

To receive messages from Fr Haggerty & about upcoming events, text **AVEMARIASD** to 84576.

Online Giving to any Parish:

Scan this QR code for our online giving page or visit our website at avemariapastorate.org.



Pastorate Ministries

IC-Immaculate Conception HNJ-Holy Name of Jesus

Prayer Chain/Prayer Line: Email or call your parish office.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA): Meetings are Tuesday at 6:30pm & Thursday at 5:45pm in the IC Parish Office basement.

Catholic Community Foundation: Marne Hult, 605-880-1460.

Our vision is to provide a "Future Full of Hope."

Catholic Daughters: Meet the 2nd Tuesday at the Knights of Columbus Unity Hall at 6:00pm.

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CODA): Meet Monday at 5:00pm, at HNJ Parish Center. Call Janet for information 605-520-3135.

Homebound Ministry: Are you interested in becoming a homebound minister? Are you homebound and would like Communion brought to your home? Please contact Bridget Bauman at 605-886-4049.

IC Meals on Wheels: IC delivers meals every 8 weeks. More substitutes are needed for a day or two. To learn more and help on an "as needed basis," please call Karla Stutzman at 605-595-7127.

Lourdes Center: Call 605-988-3775 to make an appointment for support with grief, marital, or individual counseling.

Knights of Columbus: All Knights meet the 1st Tues. at 7:00pm; 4th Degree Knights meet the 3rd Tues. at 7:00pm at Unity Hall (219 1st Ave SE).

Quilters: IC Parish Office Basement, 1st and 3rd Monday at 1:00pm.

Remembrance Group: Join us the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the parish hall for a time of prayer, fellowship and study for all who have lost a spouse.

Rosary Makers: IC Parish Hall, 2nd Monday at 1:00pm.

Rosary Prayer Group: Mondays at 9:00am in the IC Chapel.

Serra Ministry: Meets at IC Church on the 1st and 3rd Saturday, with a Rosary at 7:30am, Mass at 8:00am, followed by a meeting.

Sharon's Shawls: Will resume meeting in September.

Shalom Choir: Off for the Summer, will resume in the Fall.

St. Vincent de Paul Society meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at the HN Angelus Center, 6:30pm.

Holy Name Choir: Will resume practice in the Fall. Call Jane Jaspers to sign up 605-370-1048.

Watertown Area Right to Life: Will resume meeting on August 25th, at Midwest Bible Camp at 5:30.

For more information on any of the above, please call the number listed or your parish office.

Holy Name of Jesus

	08/29 Saturday 4:00pm	08/30 Sunday 8:30am	08/30 Sunday 10:30am
Altar Servers	Mass	Chase Paszek, Kolbe Skott, 1 Volunteer	Samantha, Grace & Ella Pesek
Extraordinary Ministers	will	Keith & Cindy Mack, Philip Mittleider	Ryan VanLaecken, Chris & Elyk Swiden
Ushers/Greeters	be	Jon & Laura Hegge, Linda Maag, Cory Akin	Mike & Kelly Pesek, Bill Rieffenberger, 1 Volunteer
Gift Bearers	celebrated	Jo and Abby Maag	Craig & Shanna Ries
Sacristan	at	Lynne Tesch	Lynne Tesch
Lector	Immaculate Conception	Val Jaspers	Mike & Jan Mullin

Sunday Collection: Envelopes: \$5,004.00, Loose: \$1,410.00, Kids: \$86.00, Feast of the Assumption: \$755.00, on-line: \$207.50. Weekly Average: \$10,821.014. Have you considered online giving? Please call 605-886-2628, we can help.

Mass Intentions

0825 Tue 8:30am +Betty Spanton
 08/26 Wed 8:30am +Lvg & Dec. Family of Joseph & Eleanor Mack
 08/27 Thu 8:30am Terry Wensing
 08/28 Fri 8:30am +Becky Frost
 08/29 Sat 4:00pm Mass at Immaculate Conception
 08/30 Sun 8:30am +Valerie & Sylvia Jaspers
 08/30 Sun 10:30am +Janet Brage

Parish Office

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm (closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch); Friday 9:00am-12:00pm
 Phone: 605-886-2628
 Mailing Address: 1009 Skyline Drive, Watertown, SD 57201
 Email: llane@avemariapastorate.org

What happened to St. Peter's bones?

Did you know that St. Peter's bones were believed to be lost in history, until a recent discovery showed otherwise?

Before the twentieth century, the only record we had of St. Peter's death was a letter from Pope Clement I. According to this letter, St. Peter was crucified under Emperor Nero in Rome and buried on Vatican Hill. After that point, we had no other evidence about the final days of St. Peter and what happened to his remains.

According to tradition, Constantine the Great built a basilica on top of what was believed to be St. Peter's resting place on Vatican Hill. That basilica was known as "Old St. Peter's Basilica," and was ransacked by Saracens in 846 after Charlemagne was crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. In the 1600s, after the new St. Peter's Basilica was constructed, the Church conducted secret excavations to try to find St. Peter's remains, but they only found what looked like pagan graves and gave up the search.

Fast forward to 1939. Crews began excavating a tomb for Pope Pius XI, who had just died and wanted to be buried underneath St. Peter's Basilica. As the excavators were preparing his tomb, they discovered an ancient shrine underneath the basilica with murals, passageways, altars, and more. When the newly elected Pope Pius XII heard about the discovery, unlike his predecessors in the seventeenth century, he decided to press on with the excavations.

Over the next few years, Monsignor Ludwig Kaas led an extensive excavation and in 1942, the team discovered some relics in a tomb in the shrine. Believing these relics were those of St. Peter, but concerned the bones would not be venerated properly in the midst of World War II, Monsignor Kaas secretly had these relics hidden for safekeeping.

After Monsignor Kaas died, Professor Margherita Guarducci, an Italian archaeologist, took over the project. The bones Monsignor Kass had discovered had largely been forgotten until, in 1953, Professor Guarducci noticed a strange hole in the wall of the tomb and asked a workman who had known Kass about it. The workman told her about the bones Kaas found there and how secretly they had been hidden. Curious, Guarducci requested that the bones be taken out of storage and thoroughly examined.

After years of research, Guarducci concluded these bones belonged to St. Peter, and she reported her findings to Pope Paul VI, who announced the discovery of the relics in 1968. It took nearly two millennia, but at last the Church could confirm that Peter's final resting place is indeed beneath the basilica that bears his name.

To learn more about the details of this extraordinary archaeological discovery, check out [John O'Neill's The Fisherman's Tomb](#).

Immaculate Conception

	08/29 Saturday, 4:00pm	08/30 Sunday, 9:00am	08/30 Sunday, 11:00am
Altar Servers	Aleah & Eli Jaeger, Hudson Peterson	Maddix Hunke, Leyla Meester, Rylie Walder	Evie & Georgi Hopper, Ellis Kahnke
Extraordinary Ministers	Bill Chase, Mia & Rachael Jaeger, Lana Waegge	Roger & Wanda Clement, Tanya Maag, Bob Spears	Lisa Kreutner, Ann Roby, Kristina Schmidt, Scott Schwinger
Ushers	Bob Albers, Chuck Clausen, Donna & Robert Lantgen, Elaine Sietsema, Mike Zafft, Volunteers (2)	Doug & Vicki Bierschbach, Brian DeBoer, Kevin Kerkvliet, Spencer Lindner, Jeff Maag, Roger Mack, Jamie Whiting	Sharon Byer, Ryan Hanten, Dan & James Kahnke, Dennis Martenson, Tyler Roberts, Vic VanWell, Ernie Vavruska
Greeters	Kris Fey, Rick Gully, Steve Raml & Jo Vitek	Todd & Molly Meester, Eileen & Garry Mislan	Lisa Kreutner, Bailey & Jean Rodriguez, Lisa Schwinger
Sacristan	Deb Siebrands	Evan Meester	Kristina Schmidt
Lector	Dave Redder	Bob Spears	Sheri Kahnke

Weekly Giving: August 9th **Envelopes: \$5,474.00 Loose \$1,854.25.** Automatic Giving Average \$3,600.00 per week. Weekly collection needs: \$16,000.00. Thank you for your continued support!

Schedule of Holy Masses

08/25 Tue 12:10pm +MaryAnn Wehde
 08/26 Wed 12:10pm +Arvid Herstedt
 08/27 Thu 12:10pm +Bob Welch
 08/28 Fri 9:00am +Leo Hanten
 08/29 Sat 4:00pm +Joseph Jankord
 08/30 Sun 9:00am +Delores "Dode" Jellesma
 08/30 Sun 11:00am Vic Mitzel

Parish Office

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm

Phone: (605) 886-4049

Mailing Address: 309 2nd Ave SE, Watertown, SD 57201

Email: icoffice@avemariapastorate.org

Knights of Columbus Raffle Winner:

August 13th - \$100 Winner: Debra Gaikowski, Watertown

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Registration for 26-27 school year is now open, please see the pastorate website: avemariapastorate.org

Sept 2nd: FF Parent meeting at Ave Maria School, 6:00 followed by Parent Sacrament meetings at 7:00

Sept 9th: Catechist meeting for Watertown Parishes, 6:00
 K-6 will meet at Ave Maria School
 7-10 will meet at Holy Name School

Sept 16th: Classes begin for grades K - 10 at 6:30 pm.

Immaculate Conception Fall Turkey Dinner

September 20, 2026

Serving from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Free will offering

Take out meals will be available for \$10 at the KC Hall ~ take out will not include homemade pies.



Ave Maria Catholic School

Phone: (605) 886-3883

School Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9-4pm

Open House: PreKindergarten/Enrichment, August 25th 5-6pm at Holy Name Campus

Open House: K-6th Grade, August 26th 5-6:30pm at Ave Maria Campus

First Day of School - Monday, August 31st

JOB OPENINGS

KOT Child Care Employees - (Must be 18 | hours 6:45am-8:20am and 3:15pm-6pm.)

Substitute Teachers and Staff - Teaching certificate not required.

(Ex of Staff Sub: Kitchen, Custodial, AND Classroom Helpers)

Apply at Ave Maria Catholic School

Applications can be found at www.avemariacatholicschool.org

Ave Maria Catholic School
Foundation Barn Dance

September 12th, 2026



Tickets are on sale in the school office or online via the QR code.

Holy Rosary

Liturgical Duties, 08/29 Saturday evening, 5:30pm

Lector	Kathy Turbak
Extraordinary Ministers	Eric Turbak, Michelle Mack, Kennedy Kolb
Altar Servers	Lariatt Kerkvliet, Abraham Kerkvliet, Jenna Beutow
Ushers/Greeters	Mike Sturm, Jesse Bush
Gifts/Offertory	Volunteers

Weekly Giving: Saturday, August 15th

Reg. - \$2,053.00, **Loose** - \$389.00, **Youth** - \$3.00.....
Total - \$2,445.00

Schedule of Holy Masses

08/24 Mon.	----	----	<Fr.'s Day of Rest>
08/25 Tue.	8:30am	Kranzburg	+Wilfred Schulte
08/26 Wed.	8:30am	Kranzburg	+Kathleen Walsh
08/27 Thur.	8:30am	Florence	+Our Deceased Mothers
08/28 Fri.	8:30am	Kranzburg	+Tori Appelhof
08/29 Sat.	8:30am	Kranzburg	+Clayton Zemlicka
08/29 Saturday	5:30pm	Kranzburg	+Heidi Mack
08/30 Sunday	8:30am	Florence	+Paula Mack

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED TO THE COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK (K) at Holy Rosary on August 17th. It was a great success! The team welcomed 16 donors and collected 14 units, a meaningful contribution that could help save up to 42 local patients. The local bank truly appreciates our partnership and looks forward to being here again December 8th.

THE CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS (K) will have their next meeting on Thursday, August 27th at 7:00pm at Jeffrey's. All members are welcome!

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE (K) was celebrated this Saturday, August 22nd at Holy Rosary Parish. Joined in marriage were Autumn Grace Mack and Jack Lucas Christianson.

WORK WILL BE DONE ON THE FRONT/SOUTH DOOR OF THE SCHOOL (K). The glass in the door sustained damage at some point during the weekend of August 8th and 9th. It appears the outer pane of glass can be replaced without replacing the entire door.

THE GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS ON THE RECTORY (K) were replaced the day after the bulletin went to the printer. Thank you to the parish members who removed the overgrown bushes that were in the way of the work and that were leading to excessive moisture issues on the east side of the rectory. Thank you also to the parish members who helped fill in the holes and level off the ground once the bushes were removed. And thank you to those persons who help lay the edging, landscape fabric, and landscape mulch.

HOLY ROSARY PARISH BAZAAR & ROAST BEAST DINNER (K) is scheduled for Sun., Sept. 27th with the dinner served from 11:00am to 1:30pm. The menu includes roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn prepared at Holy Rosary, coleslaw, dinner rolls, desserts, and beverages. Hot dogs are also available. Adult price - \$15.00, K-6th Grade - \$7.00, Pre-school and under - \$2.00 .

The raffle tickets are available for parish members to pick up at the back of church. Items for this year's raffle are ¼ Beef with processing, a Quilt, \$300 Cash, a \$300 Dakota Butcher gift certificate, and an Angel Statue.

THE NEXT PLANNED VOLUNTEER TRIMMING OF THE CEMETERY (K) at Holy Rosary is the week leading up to the bazaar. Thank you to all who have been helping out this season. And thank you for helping the volunteer trimmers and the hired mowers do their work by following the cemetery policies.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES AT HOLY ROSARY PARISH (K) will begin on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00pm. Please call the office at 605-886-9166 to register your child/children if they will be new to the program this year. No drop-ins please due to the need to set up the classrooms and have enough books & supplies. We are also in need of a Kindergarten teacher. Call the office if this is an area you can help out with.

Blessed Sacrament

Liturgical Duties, 08/30 Sunday morning, 8:30am

Lector	Bryan Maag
Extraordinary Minister	Steve Maag
Altar Servers	Derek Flisrand, Easton Flisrand, Colton Byer
Ushers/Greeters	Tyler Schwinger, Terry Kahnke
Gifts/Offertory	Lyle & Bette Tschakert

Weekly Giving: Sunday, August 16th

Reg. - \$470.00, **Loose** - \$52.00
Total - \$522.00

Parish Offices:

Office Hours: Monday-8:00am to 4:00pm (closed 12:00pm-1:00pm); Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

- **Office Phone:** 605-886-9166,
- **Rectory Phone:** 605-886-3344
- **Fr. Christopher's Email:** frchristopherhughes@sfcatholic.org
- **Office Email:** elindner@avemariapastorate.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 166, Kranzburg, SD 57245

Physical Addresses:

- Blessed Sacrament: 804 6th St, Florence, SD 57235
- Holy Rosary: 202 Minnesota Ave, Kranzburg, SD 57245



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Saint Henry

July Contributions-\$1,634.00. Thank You!!

Saint Mary

July Contributions-\$2,455.00 Thank you!!

Saint Michael

July Contributions-\$6,381.70 Thank you!!!

Mass Intentions

08/24	Mon	8:00am	Bryant	Delores Gibson
08/25	Tue	10:00am	LNNH	Gary Campbell
08/26	Wed	9:00am	Clark	Bob Murphy
08/27	Thur	7:00am	Bryant	Jean Hess
08/28	Fri	8:30am	Henry	Repose of Mildred O'Neils Soul
08/29	Sat	8:00am	Bryant	Special Intention
08/30	Sun	11:00am	Clark	Jim Forest

Parish Offices

Clark Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-5pm
Phone: 605-532-3855
Father Baumberger: 605-868-6609
LeAnn Ducker: lducker@avemariapastorate.org
Nicole Sharp: nsharp@avemariapastorate.org
Parish office for all 3 parishes: PO Box 28, Clark, SD 57225
Physical Address of each Parish:
St. Henry Address: 605 4th St, Henry, SD 57243
St. Mary Address: 209 S Broadway St, Bryant, SD 57221
St. Michael Address: 112 N Idaho St, Clark, SD 57225

Grieving with Great Hope:

Tuesdays, October 6th through November 3

To register, call Bridget Bauman at 605-886-4049.

VIKKI BOEHNEN COPLEY MEMORIAL

NOTRE DAME

FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

NOTRE DAME VS.
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

BENEFITING The Vikki Boehnen Copley
Endowment Fund for the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House

PURCHASE
A RAFFLE
TICKET:



605-988-3765



MONDAY-TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 14-15
Horseshoe K Ranch | Kimball, SD

BENEFITING NEWMAN
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

REGISTER:

605-988-3765

Area and Diocesan Events



For more information regarding these and future events, visit www.abbeyofthehills.org or email events@abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200.

August 24, 2026- Presentation on Baby Brian-Fr. Axtmann will share the story of Baby Brian Gallagher who was born and died during childbirth in 1982. He was buried at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery near Highmore, South Dakota. When his remains were to be moved to the Black Hills National Cemetery, it was discovered that his body had not decomposed.

His story has touched countless hearts and is seen by many as a powerful sign of God's love and presence in our midst.

August 25, 2026-From Age to Age Retreat directed by Fr. Tschakert
The focus of this day will help us reflect on advancing years as a time of grace and growth in wisdom as we look through our lives with gratitude.

A 90-year old woman told her pastor, "Sometimes you have to live twice before you really live once." The senior years are a time to be grateful for the past and to live in the present with wisdom.

September 8 Day of Recollection-directed by Fariba Roughead
"The Gift of Happiness: Exploring Faith & Science Together"

St. Mother Theresa Rosary Makers

Wish to thank the anonymous donor for their generous contribution to our ministry. God Bless You!!!

IS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN YOU? Are you looking for that light? How can you bring the light of Christ to someone else if you don't have it within yourself? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and designed for adults, the next weekend is scheduled for September 18-20, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.

South Dakota Right to Life 2026 STATE CONVENTION

September 18th and 19th
Friday 7:00pm - Saturday 4pm
Life Change Church Sioux Falls, SD

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. George Delgado, Pioneer of Abortion Pill Reversal

Sister Dede Byrne, Sister, Soldier, Surgeon

Norman Woods, Executive Director of SD Family Voice

YOUTH: JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL LUNCH SESSION

10:00am -1:00pm

Imad Qumsieh will be back on August 29th and 30 with his beautiful collection of hand carved olive wood religious articles from the Holy Land. They are very beautiful and make excellent gifts for First Communion, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and Confirmation.

All profits go to support the Catholic families who carved these articles in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Supporting the Catholics in the Holy Land is very important at this difficult time because they are protecting the Holy churches for all of us.

Discipleship & Evangelization ~ 605-878-2055

Fall Faith Formation Registration is Now Open!

Sign up by visiting the Ave Maria Pastorate website. Click on "FF Registration," then choose the parish you are a member of, and register your children

Need help navigating the website?

Are you a catechist and need a promo code?

Call Loretta Redder at 605-878-2055.

For the best experience, please register using a computer or laptop instead of your phone.

Aug 26th, 6:00pm- Catechist Meeting for Watertown parishes at Immaculate Conception (IC) Church Hall

Sept 2nd, 6:00 pm- Parent Meeting for the Watertown Parishes at Ave Maria Catholic School

Sept 9th, 6:00 pm- Catechist K-6 Meeting for the Watertown Parishes at Ave Maria Catholic School

Sept 9th, 6:00 pm - Catechist 7-10th Meeting for the Watertown Parishes at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center Gym.

Sept 13th, 9:30am- Parent/Catechist Meeting for Blessed Sacrament Parish

Sept 16th- First class for the rest of the pastorate!

St. Mary's K-6th, 3:30-5:00pm

St. Michael's & St. Henry's K-6th, 4:00-5:00pm

St. Mary's 7th-10th, 6:30-8:00pm

St. Michael's & St Henry's 7th-10th, 6:30-8:00pm

Holy Name of Jesus and Immaculate Conception K-10th, 6:30-7:30pm

Holy Rosary K-10th, 7:00-8:15pm

Sept 20th, 9:30am- First class for Blessed Sacrament Parish!

Sept 27th- Parent Meeting for St. Michael's Parish after 11 am Mass.
Bring a dish to pass for a potluck following the meeting!

Ave Maria Pastorate Discipleship & Evangelization Staff

Parker Schlenker, Director of Discipleship & Evangelization
pschlenker@avemariapastorate.org

Bridget Bauman, Parish Nurse, Watertown Parishes
bbauman@avemariapastorate.org

Loretta Redder, K-6 Coordinator, Watertown Parishes
lredder@avemariapastorate.org

Jake Brooks, 7-12 Coordinator, Watertown Parishes
jbrooks@avemariapastorate.org

Stacey Busskohl, Blessed Sacrament K-12 Coordinator, Florence
Stacey.Busskohl@k12.sd.us

Eileen Lindner, Holy Rosary K-12 Coordinator, Kranzburg
elindner@avemariapastorate.org

Amber Johnson, St. Henry K-12 Coordinator, Henry
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Ashley Konechne, St. Mary K-12 Coordinator, Bryant
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Shannon Huber, St. Michael K-12 Coordinator, Clark
schlage145@yahoo.com

If you are reading this, you are being called!

We are in need of a few catechists and helpers at all grade levels.

If this is something you have considered, now is your time to reach out to Jake or Loretta at 605-878-2055!

Here Is Your Opportunity To Share Your Faith With The Teenagers Of Our Pastorate!!

We are seeking people to help start a youth Group in the parishes of our pastorate.

If you are interested,
please call Parker Schlenker in the
Faith Formation office: 605-878-2055

Are You Interested In Learning More About The Catholic Faith?

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for you!
We will be starting a new class soon. Please call the Faith Formation office at 605-878-2055 for more information. Classes are held at Ave Maria Catholic School.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Women's Group, Book Study - Holy Name of Jesus, on Tuesdays at 4:30pm. Currently studying the "Wild Goose Series," Please call Mavis Kemnitz for more information 605-880-5996.

Women's Group, SHE, Shall Be Called Woman - Transforming Women & Their Families. Sessions are held Wednesday from 8:45-10am, Immaculate Conception Boardroom or Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm at Ave Maria School & Faith Formation Center Gym Stage. For more information contact 605-878-2055.

'4Fathers 4Families, Men's Group' - Held Wednesday at 6:30-7:30pm at Ave Maria School & FF Center Library. Mission is to strengthen and support men in their sacred role as fathers, husbands, and spiritual leaders of the home. Contact Chris Swiden for more information at 605-280-6834.

Watertown Men's Group - Thursday at 6:30am, Immaculate Conception Church Hall. For more information contact Craig Swarhout at 763-458-0718.

Young Adult Group Contact Parker at 605-878-2055 for more info.

Young Couples Group - This group is aimed at married couples in their 20's and 30's. Children welcome! For more info or to sign up for notifications, call Shelby Kerkvliet at 605-237-9691.

Young Women's Group - College aged women's group meets weekly. Contact Parker Schlenker for more information by emailing, pschlenker@avemariapastorate.org

Young Men's Group - Held Mondays, 7pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Center Basement. For more info, call Ryan Hanten at 605-881-0683.

Adoration Times

Holy Rosary, Kranzburg, Holy Hour 3:00-4:00pm
No Holy Hour Sunday August 23rd
There will be Holy Hour on Sunday, August 30th



Wed, 12:40pm - Thurs noon at Immaculate Conception



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