

St. Sebastian Parish  
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January 25, 2026

### The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday	1/25	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	Larry Vanden Langenberg (20) and Le Roy Matuszak (14) ~ Anniversaries of Death <b>Mass at St John's Dorothy Fellion</b>
Tuesday	1/27	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's OPEN</b>
Wednesday	1/28	***** 9:00 AM	<b>NO Mass or Services at St John's</b> Holy Communion Outside of Mass
Thursday	1/29	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Holy Communion Outside of Mass at St John's</b>
Friday	1/30	*****	NO Mass OR Services - Canceled due to expected weather. Stay Warm!
Saturday	1/31	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's Jean Birling</b>
Sunday	2/1	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	In Loving Memory of Rick DeRuyter Love, Sherry & Family <b>Mass at St John's OPEN</b>

**RE after Mass**

The January Bulletin is Sponsored in Memory of the Living & Deceased Members of  
the De Ruyter & Van Asten Families From Sherry & Family



#### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 4:12-23

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "**Come after me**" (Matthew 4:19). And *immediately* they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "**In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us**" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir

#### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

##### Drop Your Nets and Be Free

There are times I wish I had no obligations. It would be great to take my wife's hand, hop in the car, and drive into the sunset. Where we were going would not matter as much as the fact that we would have nowhere we *had* to be. There would be nothing we *had* to do. No bills. No commitments. No problems. *Freedom!*

Life doesn't work like that, however. When Jesus came along and asked some fishermen to drop their nets and follow him, they did just that. Wow! In some ways, they experienced true freedom. That is what Jesus offers all of us. Yet, true freedom looks quite different than my dream scenario.

In living in the true freedom that Jesus offers, there are things we must do and places we must go. That is because freedom only exists in following God's will, not our own. We are called to be and called to give ourselves completely to God without reservations. We always have the free will to not respond to His call, but we will find that a negative answer may complicate our lives even further. God's path for us calls on us to give freely of what we have been given. Saying no to that call means we carry the weight of those gifts. We were never meant to keep them. The path of God's will may seem long and winding, but it is the one that leads us into that sunset. It is the way to true freedom.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



The Salvation Army, Black Creek Bread of Life Service Center would like to thank you for choosing an Angel tag off the Angel Tree this year for Christmas. Thank you for Giving Joy to families that were looking for hope this Christmas. You brought many people happiness and parents some relief.

You all are greatly appreciated. ~ Cindy M. Muelemans, Director

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
<b>Sunday 8:00 AM</b> <b>February 1</b>	Abby Matuszak	Janet Matuszak	Ellie Melchert Lily Van Schyndel Levi Main	Ron Matuszak Jr Dick Stedl

#### **INCOME FOR WEEK:**

Church Support	\$ 975.00
Loose Collection	\$ 140.00
Votives	\$ 19.75
Mass Intentions	\$ 120.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 30.00
Building & Maintenance	\$ 10.00
Burial Fees	\$ 950.00
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 50.00

#### **DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:**

WE Energies	\$ 1198.92
Ken Linsmeyer	\$ 50.00
Jeff Vanden Langenberg	\$ 50.00
Kevin Van Lannen	\$ 50.00
Jerry Mueller	\$ 500.00
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 7.89



There was a good turnout for our St Sebastian's Feast Day Breakfast last Sunday. The RE Students served 76 parishioners. Thank you to them and to the Christian Women Society for sponsoring this breakfast each year!

We have recently updated the internet and phones to Spectrum. Thank you to Brad Vanden Heuvel for his expertise in helping with all the updates in this transition!



Thank you to everyone that donated food for the St. John Evangelist Homeless Shelter meal last Thursday. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

#### **February Bulletin Sponsorship Still Available**



Bishop Ricken promulgated his pastoral Invitation...

**"Sent on Mission: A Pastoral Invitation to Share Jesus with Others"**  
which can be accessed on the diocesan website at <https://dioc.io/sent>



**In a diocesan act of trust and unity, we will be reciting the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" following the "Universal Prayer." Prayer cards can be found in your pews.**

#### **Blessing of Light**

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine. Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays. Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen.

#### **Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week**

Peter and Andrew, James and John—they were not expecting God that day. But there he was, right in front of them, beckoning. God stands before us today, and like the Apostles, we often don't see him coming. But still, he beckons. Will we follow?

#### **Virtues, Explained! Patience**

In practicing patience, we bear any kind of suffering for a greater good, safeguard our reason against sorrow, and "look at (other people) with God's gaze knowing how to distinguish their faces from their faults."

**Fr Sengole will be gone on vacation from January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Examination of Conscience, Explained**

In Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle writes that it is imperative for a Christian to reflect on his conscience before he partakes of Holy Eucharist: "Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28). The practice of examining one's conscience before seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation thus dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith and was encouraged as a regular practice by many saints and founders of religious orders as a means of growing in virtue.

An examination of conscience, when it relates to the sacrament, simply means reflecting on one's actions (and particularly the intentions behind those actions) since the penitent's last absolution, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed. A good basis for this reflection can be the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the seven deadly sins.



Perpetual Monthly Giving Calendar  
Seymour Food Pantry  
St Vincent de Paul to collect & deliver.  
Featured items for January:



**Canned Veggies, Dried Beans, Bagged Brown Rice**

**Ministry of the Sick:** Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

**Baptisms:** Please call the parish office two months in advance.

**Marriage:** Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Please call St. John's parish office.

**Anointing of the Sick and Dying:** Please call St. John's parish office.

**Fr. Sengole Dass**  
**St. John Parish Office - 833-6140**

**DC. Richard Matuszak**  
**833-2294 or 609-5292**

**St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558**  
**Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00**  
**Wed: 8:30 – Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri**