



February 1, 2026

The Presentation of the Lord

Sunday	2/1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Loving Memory of Rick DeRuyter Love, Sherry & Family Mass at St John's Morgan & Roger Eich and Sandy Maass	RE after Mass
Tuesday	2/3	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Unborn Babies	
Wednesday	2/4	***** 9:00 AM	NO Mass or Services at St John's Holy Communion Outside of Mass / Adoration & Benediction to follow	
Thursday	2/5	8:15 AM	Holy Communion Outside of Mass at St John's	
Friday	2/6	8:15 AM	Holy Communion Outside of Mass	
Saturday	2/7	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Eugene Kaczrowski	
Sunday	2/8	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Living Intention for Katelyn Grzelak Mass at St John's Sue Smet	

GOSPEL MEDITATION

— *Father John Muir*

Matthew 5:1-12a

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad"** (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

What Stays the Same

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called *anaphora*. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."



**God's blessings to
Luke Michael Vanden Langenberg,
son of Kevin & Cassandra,
who was baptized in our parish on
January 25, 2026!**

**Thank You to Phil & Lori Letter
for Sponsoring the February Bulletin
In Memory of the Living & Deceased
Members of the Letter Family.**

**Thank
You**

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM February 8	Ellie Melchert	Jessica Melchert	Graham Kisling Harry Bluma Jack Bluma	Perry Matuszak Ken Linsmeyer

St. Sebastian Monthly Stewardship and Expense Report 2026 Fiscal Year		
Ordinary Revenue	December	Year to Date
Parish Support	\$ 70,490	\$ 103,050
Offerings and Other Unrestricted Income	<u>1,963</u>	<u>5,553</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 72,453	\$ 108,602
Ordinary Expenses		
Worship, Music, non-Religious Ed Catechesis	\$ 425	\$ 2,354
Personnel Expenses and Salaries	4,591	32,513
Purchased Services and Supplies	2,751	7,767
Utilities	1,238	3,831
Building and Grounds	203	3,941
General and Office Expenses	463	3,198
Diocesan Assessments	640	4,977
Other Expenses	198	2,397
Parish Donations	<u>379</u>	<u>379</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 10,888	\$ 61,356
Revenue Net of Expense	\$ 61,565	\$ 47,247

DISPOSAL OF PALMS

Holy palms should be returned to nature. Should you wish to dispose of yours, you may bury it or burn it and spread the ashes outside. Or you can bring them to church and leave in the marked basket located in the entrance. We will take all the collected palms and burn them. The ashes will then be used for the Ash Wednesday service on February 18th.

INCOME FOR WEEK:	
Church Support	\$ 965.00
Loose Collection	\$ 156.00
Votives	\$ 14.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 20.00
DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:	
Darrin Stingle Trucking – Snow	\$ 1080.00
St Therese of Little Flower	\$ 639.50
Quill - Supplies	\$ 97.25
RE Supplies - Reimbursement	\$ 228.96
Parish Breakfast -Reimbursement	\$ 267.96
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 6.94

Perpetual Monthly Giving Calendar
Seymour Food Pantry
St Vincent de Paul to collect & deliver.



Featured items for February: **Canned Soup**

Bless Us, Lord

Jesus, You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek you. My your blessing accompany us on our way. Amen.

Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

Virtues, Explained! Kindness

Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God, who has adopted us as His own.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS **Countercultural Then and Now**

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to be in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, *Life of Christ*, Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, *eternally* speaking.

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