




April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday	4/26	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Robert Sponenburg Mass at St John's Ann Theroux	From Chris and Sandy	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
Tuesday	4/28	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Dale Katch		
Wednesday	4/29	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	Mass at St John's Stephen Buch Holy Communion Outside of Mass		
Thursday	4/30	*****	NO Mass or Services at St John's	St Sebastian Men's Group in Parish Hall 8pm-9pm	
Friday	5/1	8:15 AM	Florence, Walter, and Duane Ebert		
Saturday	5/2	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Living & Deceased Members of the Nackers Family		
Sunday	5/3	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Lynn & Dale Nooyen and the Otto Worsch Family Mass at St John's OPEN		

The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something *is* right because it *feels* right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM May 3	Stacy Kisling	Sandy Sponenburg	Jordan Banker Liberty Schroeder Lily Van Schyndel	Dick Stedl Ken Linsmeyer

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 840.00
Loose Collection	\$ 184.00
Votives	\$ 8.50

DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:

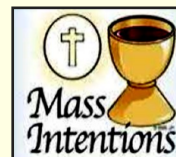
Cathedral Book & Gift - RE	\$ 24.30
Geenen's Liquid Waste	\$ 240.00
Liguori Publications -Website Ann. Subscript.	\$ 599.40
Cathedral Letter Concepts	\$ 116.76
St Therese of the Little Flower	\$ 639.50
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 8.11



Thank you to Shirley Kropp for the generous donation given in loving memory of Gene Kropp. With this donation, we were able to install a new sink in the sacristy and a Wi-Fi thermostat for the church. Thank you also to Brad Vanden Heuvel for taking care of the installation of both.

Available Mass Intention Dates

May 8, 29
June 12, 19, 26
July 3, 10, 31
August 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30



Exaltation of the Cross

Question:

What is the history behind feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.

Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus, Be the Good Shepherd in my life. Help me to know your voice and to respond. Help me to find your fold and the paths on which you lead. Bless me with verdant pastures and restful waters. Refresh my soul. Amen.

Live the Liturgy- Inspiration of the Week

"The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when he speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

Virtues, Explained! Humility

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

"Glorify God Among the Nations,
Seeking Him in All Generations"

1 Chronicles
16:24



Bishop's Appeal 2026

St Sebastian's has reached \$9,967 of our \$16,357 parish goal!
Needed: \$6,390

Perpetual Monthly Giving Calendar

Seymour Food Pantry
St Vincent de Paul
to collect & deliver.

APRIL:
Jell-O, Pudding, Crackers

The April Bulletin is Sponsored

In Memory of
Donald Vande Hei &
Jane Angrabright
Love, The Helen
Vande Hei Family



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