

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday	8/30	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Donald Roskom & Karen Vander Veldon From Shirley Roskom <i>Mass at St John's Rosalie Christensen and Deceased Family Members</i>
Tuesday	9/1	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's For Those Struggling With Addiction</i>
Wednesday	9/2	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	<i>Mass at St John's For The Stop Of Human Trafficking</i> Holy Communion Outside of Mass / Adoration & Benediction to follow
Thursday	9/3	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's Don Raymakers</i>
Friday	9/4	8:15 AM	In Memory of Lillian Van De Yacht From Alice Vanden Langenberg
Saturday	9/5	4:00 PM	<i>Mass at St John's For The Marriage of Daniel & Abby Krull</i>
Sunday	9/6	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Donald Roskom & Karen Vander Veldon From Shirley Roskom <i>Mass at St John's Ann Theroux</i>



THANK YOU to DAVE ANDERSON for donating the material and construction of the new pedestal for our St Therese statue!



Matthew 16:21-27

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, **"Get behind me, Satan."**

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. **"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."** In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— Father John Muir

Imago Divina, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* ("divine reading"). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, or using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God. Believers have always connected with the divine through visual representations of faith. This can be seen in the frescoes that adorn the walls of the catacombs, in the glory of Rococo architecture, and in the stained glass windows of a simple country church. "Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God," said Pope Benedict in 2011.

In practicing *imago divina*, just like with *lectio divina*, the faithful "read" (or view), reflect, respond and rest with the image, inviting the Holy Spirit to move them accordingly.



**The August Bulletin Is Sponsored In Memory of
the Deceased Members of the Mary Vande Walle Hill & DJ Hill Families**



DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM September 6	Stacy Kisling	Dcn Rich	Paden Melchert Graham Kisling Brady Vander Heiden	Dick Stedl Ken Linsmeyer

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 1225.00
Loose Collection	\$ 156.00
Votives	\$ 17.00
RE Fees	\$ 60.00
RE Donation	\$ 215.00

DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:

St Therese of the Little Flower	\$ 805.97
Lawnmower fuel reimbursement	\$ 38.51
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 10.34

To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might...set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

NEW Homeless Shelter Meal ~ Lunch September 5th

Please check the sign-up sheet in the entrance of church.
You can drop off your donations of food at St John's School on Friday, September 4th from 6am to 5pm and Saturday, September 5th from 6am to 8am. The north door of the school will be open.
Thank you for your donations ~ it is greatly appreciated!

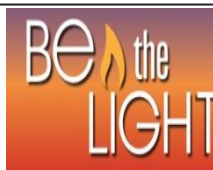


Pilgrimage with Fr. Sengole

Wednesday,
Sept 23rd to
The Shrine of Our
Lady Guadalupe,
La Crosse.

To Register:

Call St John's
parish office
#920-833-6140



Bishop's Appeal 2026

Parish Goal:
\$16,357

Given to date:
\$14,747

Still Needed:
\$1,610



Prayer for Vocations

Dear God,

Give us the courage and strength to answer when You call! Give us clarity and trust to hear Your soft invitations. Give us the love to respond, and the bravery to take the steps that will bring us ever closer to You. Amen.

Virtues, Explained! Zeal

Virtuous zeal refers to an all-consuming love, which has for its object the Lord Himself. Closeness with God is impeded by anything contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ, so no person can be "zealous" for God if they are violent or hateful.

Live the Liturgy— Inspiration of the Week

Plenty of people are drawn to Jesus. Curious about him. Inspired by him. But can they carry the cross? Today, Jesus tells us that we cannot have one without the other—it is Christ and the cross, or nothing at all. Which will we choose?

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



SEPTEMBER:
**Peanut Butter
& Jelly**

**YOU DON'T
CLIMB A
MOUNTAIN
IN LEAPS
AND
BOUNDS,
BUT BY
TAKING IT
SLOWLY.**

—ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

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 - (920) 833-6140

DC. Richard Matuszak
(920) 833-2294 or (920) 609-5292

St Sebastian Parish Office - (920) 833-2558

Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00
Wed: 8:30 - Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri