



August 31, 2025

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sunday	8/31	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Louis Rynish <i>Mass at St John's Jean Birling</i>
Monday	9/1	<i>Holiday</i>	Parish Office Closed for Holiday Have a Happy & Safe Labor Day!
Tuesday	9/2	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's Norm &amp; Mary Steffens</i>
Wednesday	9/3	8:15 AM *****	<i>Mass at St John's Don Raymakers</i> NO Services at St Sebastian's **6:15 PM <i>Holy Hour at St John's</i>
Thursday	9/4	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's Bev Ver Voort</i>
Friday	9/5	8:15 AM	For Students & Teachers Returning to School
Saturday	9/6	4:00 PM	<i>Mass at St John's LaVern &amp; Helen Leisgang</i>
Sunday	9/7	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Eleanor Reindl From Al Reindl <i>Mass at St John's Mary, Mark, &amp; Paul Burkel</i>

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **"When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table"** (Luke 14:10).

This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

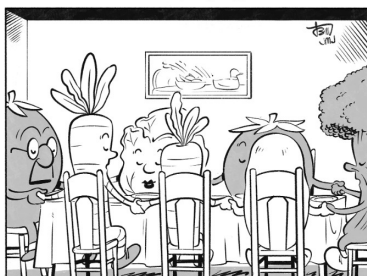
Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do. — *Father John Muir*



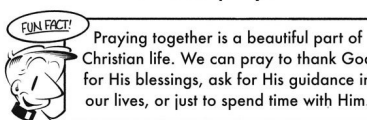
**The August Bulletin  
is Sponsored in  
Memory of  
Donald Vande Hei &  
Jane (Vande Hei)  
Angrabright  
Love, The Helen  
Vande Hei Family**

**THANK YOU!**

"What did the vegetables say before they started praying?"



**"Lettuce pray."**



**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**  
**Give Graciously**

I love the verse in Sirach where it says, "My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." This is an interesting concept for those of us who think a stewardship way of life is all about the giving of gifts. When we start to think that all we are called to do is give for the sake of giving, we have missed the point.

We are called to be gracious givers. We are called to allow the Jesus in us to encounter the Jesus in others. Humility does not mean that we hide away after we give, but we give in a way that has less to do with us and more to do with the one in whose name we give. Our world needs philanthropy and generosity, but it needs Jesus even more. We want to be good examples to others of how to be generous, not because we want them to be like us but like Jesus.

Give all things with a gracious heart and disposition. Do not take any credit for that generosity but instead let it point to Jesus. After all, it is Jesus who calls us to a mature faith where we answer the call every day regardless of the cost. Without that maturity and answering the call, would we really be driven to be generous givers? Knowing that left to our own devices we would probably not be very successful as a giver of gifts should make us very humble anyway.

—*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
<b>Sunday 8:00 AM</b> <b>September 7</b>	Jodi Soltvedt	Clarence Gruszczynski	Ashlin Ullmer Preston Vander Heiden Brady Vander Heiden	Jim Soltvedt Don Eisenreich

<b>St. Sebastian</b> <b>Monthly Stewardship and Expense Report</b> <b>2026 Fiscal Year</b>			
Ordinary Revenue	July	Year to Date	
Parish Support	\$ 6,362	\$	6,362
Offerings and Other Unrestricted Income	289		289
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,651</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,651</b>
<b>Ordinary Expenses</b>			
Worship, Music, non-Religious Ed Catechesis	\$ 339	\$	339
Personnel Expenses and Salaries	4,910		4,910
Purchased Services and Supplies	907		907
Utilities	563		563
Building and Grounds	1,418		1,418
General and Office Expenses	796		796
Diocesan Assessments	1,780		1,780
Other Expenses	28		28
Parish Donations	-		-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,741</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,741</b>
<b>Revenue Net of Expense</b>	<b>\$ (4,091)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(4,091)</b>

**Parish Fundraising Days**  
**Thank you to Cathedral Book & Gift**  
**for this donation and for all your**  
**support of the store!**  
**St Sebastian Parish received 10% of**  
**the sales from August 8th & 9th,**  
**with a total donation of**  
**\$162.50 for our parish!**

**SEEKING :**  
**FIRST FRIDAY MINISTERS**  
**We are in need of several individuals**  
**or couples to serve as**  
**First Friday Ministers to take**  
**Holy Communion to the homebound.**  
**If you are interested or**  
**would like additional information,**  
**please contact Dcn Rich.**

**Mini reflection:**  
 I think, if we're being really honest,  
 we all expect "payment" for being a  
 good person. We want God to give us  
 what we ask. We want people to treat us  
 a certain way. But what if we expected  
 absolutely nothing?

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**  
**Question:** Which grotto located in France is visited by  
 millions of pilgrims every year? **Answer:** Lourdes.



**Devotions, Explained! Imago Divina**  
*Imago divina* (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of  
 the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (literally, "divine  
 lesson"). Imago divina is, in a sense, praying with one's  
 eyes, using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the  
 mind to God.

**Prayer for Humility**  
 Dear God, Mold my heart after Yours.  
 Help me to see myself as You see me: surrounded by Your  
 love. Help me to see others as You see them as well.  
 Give me knowledge of Your ways, today and always.  
 Amen.

**Live The Liturgy - Inspiration of the Week**  
 "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor," Jesus  
 instructs. "Blessed indeed with you be because of their  
 inability to repay you." Each of us has our own banquet to  
 offer, our own gifts to share. Who will we invite?

<b>INCOME FOR WEEK:</b>	
Church Support	\$ 1461.11
Loose Collection	\$ 178.00
Votives	\$ 13.55
Bishop's Appeal Donation	\$ 378.90
RE Donation	\$ 40.00
Catholic Book & Gift (RE Donation)	\$ 162.50
<b>DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:</b>	
St Therese of the Little Flower	\$ 639.50
The Catholic Foundation (Bishop Appeal)	\$ 378.90
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 10.08

**WE DID IT!**  
**Thank You to all our parishioners who**  
**made a gift and to those who prayed for**  
**the success of the Appeal!**

**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**