




September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sunday	9/14	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Clifford Dembroski for his Birthday <i>Mass at St John's Roger & Helen Rozmiarek</i>	
Tuesday	9/16	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's Delores Leininger</i>	
Wednesday	9/17	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	<i>Mass at St John's Barb & Merle Wagner</i> Holy Communion Outside f Mass / Faith Formation to follow	
Thursday	9/18	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's 65th Anniversary of Louis & Georgian Rynish</i>	
Friday	9/19	8:15 AM	Greg & Burton Stevens & Dan Nienhaus From Nancy Stevens	
Saturday	9/20	4:00 PM	<i>Mass at St John's Ray Palubicki</i>	
Sunday	9/21	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Loving Memory of Larry & Dorothy Vanden Langenberg <i>Mass at St John's Jean Birling</i>	

GOSPEL MEDITATION

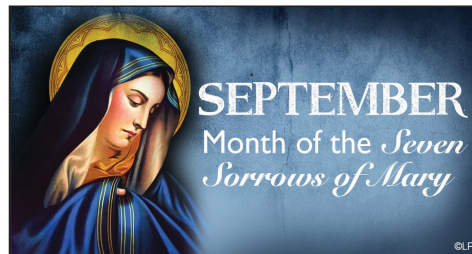
— Father John Muir

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross John 3:13-17

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.



Prophecy of Simeon, Flight into Egypt, Loss of Jesus in the Temple, Meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary, Standing at the foot of the Cross, Jesus being taken down from the Cross, and Burial of Jesus.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Cross is Not Negotiable

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to *be tough*, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

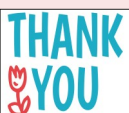
Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.



The September Bulletin is Sponsored
in Memory of Clifford Dembroski
and All Living & Deceased Veterans

DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM September 21	Amanda Nagel	Jessica Melchert	Jackson Banker Paden Melchert Parker Nagel	Kurt Schuh Steve Hackl

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 3502.00
Loose Collection	\$ 338.00
Votives	\$ 13.00
Building/ Maintenance	\$ 70.00
Christian Women Society Dues	\$ 4.00
RE Donation	\$ 10.00
Collection for Gaza	\$ 451.25
Burial Fees	\$ 600.00
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 50.00

DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:

MMC-Multi Media	\$ 20.00
The Catholic Foundation (Gaza)	\$ 451.25
James Imaging	\$ 102.93
Jeff Vanden Langenberg (Burial Assist)	\$ 50.00
Kevin Van Lannen (Burial Assist)	\$ 50.00
Jerry Mueller (Burial)	\$ 400.00
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 5.34

Catholic Q&A **Daily Prayer Versus Mass?**

Question: I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer: If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

NEW Homeless Shelter Meal in Green Bay

Saturday, September 27th (Lunch for about 200)



We need donations of food, hamburger & hot dogs & buns for both, potato chips, cookies, cans of baked beans, sliced cheese, pickles, assorted fruit, cooks & servers. Leaving from St John's church parking lot at 10:15am. There is a sign-up sheet in the entrance of church. We appreciate any donations and help you can give!

Devotions, Explained! Litany

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often "hear our prayer" or "pray for us"). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

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

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it. The cross is not a symbol of judgment—the cross is what mercy looks like when it is lived out. How will we bring the cross into our lives this week? How will we live the mercy which has saved us?

Prayer of Love

Dear God,
Expand my heart
in new ways today,
to understand the love
You have for me,
to take that love
deeply into myself, &
to act from that love.
Amen.

Outdoor Polka Mass & Family Parish Picnic **St Lawrence Navarino, WI**

Sunday, September 21st ~ Mass at 10:00am
Music by The Maroszek Brothers Band

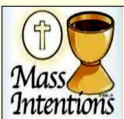
Bring your own lawn chairs if you are able.
Lunch 11am-1pm. Handicap accessible under a big tent
* Music * Pulled Pork Sandwiches * Chicken Booyah *
* Bake Sale * Brats * Burgers * Polish Sausage*Bar *
* Silent Auction & Live Auction * Bucket Raffle *
* 50/50 Drawing * Raffles * Children's Games *

Centennial Cemetery Tour on Saturday, Sept 27, 2025 from
9:15-10:30 a.m. Led by: Father James Neilson, O. Praem.

After the 8:30 a.m. Mass, join us outside St. Norbert Abbey Church as we visit St. Norbert Abbey Cemetery for our

Centennial Cemetery Tour, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Abbey receiving "abbey status" (1925-2025). Hear the stories of some of the foundational Norbertines in this cemetery walk. Cost: freewill offering

Available Dates:



October 3 December 5
November 14 December 12
November 21

NEVER
CEASE
PRAYING

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