



October 1, 2023
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	10/1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Gary & Dorie Kropp and Rich & Leona DeRuyter by Jim & Jodi Soltvedt Mass at St John's Alice & Harry Bluma & Deceased Family Members
Tues	10/3	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's No Services
Wed	10/4	8:15 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Mass at St John's No Services Communion Service Holy Hour
Thurs	10/5	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's For Unborn Babies
Fri	10/6	8:15 AM	In Memory of Amy Oudenhoven by Sandy Sponenburg
Sat	10/7	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Jerry Linsmeyer
Sun	10/8	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Francis Smurawa ~ 50th Anniversary of his Death (10/19/73) Love, Family Mass at St John's Ronald Haws

Respect Life *Sunday*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Is It the Thought That Counts?

I can remember times when I received a gift that I would not have chosen for myself. At those times I certainly thought to myself that "it was the thought that counts." I was happy that the gift-giver thought of me at all. Then there have been times when my children have not given me a gift and then chose to tell me all about what they were going to give me. They would then follow it up by saying, "it was the thought that really counts." Really!?! I don't think so. I could think of sending my wife on a cruise, but that is not in any way the same as going on the cruise. I think there are times when all of us think we are more generous than we are, simply because we were thinking about being generous.

This way of thinking can be dangerous. Jesus teaches us to say what we mean and mean what we say. The intentionality of our actions is important, but intentionality without action is meaningless. How we act and what we give serves as evidence of our intentions and indicates where our heart truly lies. If we fool ourselves into thinking we are someone we are not, it can become difficult to see the truth. We need to look for the fruit in our lives. We need to make sure our desires and thoughts are moving us to act. You know that other saying about intentions, don't you? Don't pave the road to a place no one wants to end up with your intentions. Instead, let your intentions and actions lead others to another place where Jesus can be found.

— Tracy Earl Welliver

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, "I can't stand all these converts to the faith. They're always rocking the boat." It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of "us" and "them." The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don't we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus' punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn't get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. **"Which did the will of his father?"** asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won't do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. *Everyone* is called to do God's will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let's reject the convenient but damaging categories of "insiders" and "outsiders." Instead, let's embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren't *them*. They are *us*. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

— Father John Muir

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIPTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Jodi Soltvedt	Julie Skinkis		Ashlin Ullmer	Dick Stedl
October 8				Liberty Schroeder	Jim Soltvedt

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 680.00
Loose Collection	\$ 155.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 30.00
Votive Candles	\$ 8.00
Building/Maintenance	\$ 310.00
RE Tuition	\$ 290.00
RE Donation	\$ 120.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

WE Energies	\$ 519.73
DeWitt Church Goods (Server kneelers)	\$ 97.92
Leo Benevolent Association	\$ 1,661.00
Quill Office Supplies	\$ 86.51
OCP Liturgical Supplies	\$ 48.45
Postage	\$ 27.00
RE Background Checks	\$ 26.00

St. Francis of Assisi | Feast Day October 4

St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) left a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, the Third Order of St. Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.

Born in 1181 in Italy, St. Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying as a youth. During a military expedition/battle between Assisi and Perugia, he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison and began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, St. Francis of Assisi claimed to have heard the voice of Christ, who told him to restore the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. As a result, St. Francis of Assisi abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the Catholic faith.

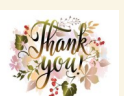
Everyday Stewardship

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Remember a time when jealousy or envy reared its ugly head and you wished you had something that someone else owned? Maybe it was a house, a car, a bank account, or even that luscious green lawn. All humans have had that feeling before and some of us more often than others. After the emotion hit you, hopefully you considered all the good gifts you did have in your life and gave thanks for them. Let's pray that you are still not hanging onto those feelings. Unfortunately, we do live in a world that seems to fuel those desires and push us toward wanting more and more.

But let's level the field here. Did you ever hear of someone who died and was able to take any of those things into the afterlife? The reality is that nothing we have in this life truly belongs to us. We come into this world with nothing and as time goes by more gifts are entrusted to us but we never truly own them. So whom do they belong to anyway?

Of course, you know the answer. All that we have has been entrusted to us by God; to be cherished, cultivated, and then given back to him for his glory. God doesn't need any of these things, and we only need them short-term. All that we need long-term is God. If he is all we need in the end, I bet our lives would be more fruitful and happier if we focused on that now instead of later.



The October Bulletin is sponsored in memory of Tom LaCombe, on his 13th Anniversary in Heaven.
Love, Sandy, Kennedy & Trenton

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday,
October 15th



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God invites each of us to work in His vineyard, but it's our choice whether we "clock in" or stay home. Let's never fail to show up. It's the most important job we will ever have.



WANTED

Bookshelves

The Religious Education Library is in need of smaller bookshelves.

Email Jessica at:
REcoordinator
@StSebastianSeymour.com
if you can help!



Confession will be offered the last Friday of each month, following 8:15 am Mass



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