



October 8, 2023  
**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sun	10/8	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	In Memory of Francis Smurawa ~ 50th Anniversary of his Death (10/19/73) Love, Family <b>Mass at St John's Ronald Haws</b>
Tues	10/10	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's Pete &amp; Minnie Vosters</b>
Wed	10/11	<b>8:15 AM</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's For the Church</b> Communion Service Faith formation
Thurs	10/12	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's For All Members of Our Community</b>
Fri	10/13	8:15 AM	For All God's Children
Sat	10/14	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Mass at St John's LaVern &amp; Helen Leisgang</b>
Sun	10/15	8:00 AM <b>10:00 AM</b>	In Memory of Myron Gruszczynski by Family <b>Mass at St John's Gerald &amp; Gladys Schaumberg</b>

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



**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER  
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

Jesus' parables are much stranger than most people realize. This week is an attention-getting example. He tells the religious leaders a parable about a completely absurd situation. Blood-thirsty and insane tenants violently abuse and kill the servants of their landlord. Inexplicably, the owner keeps sending them more victims of increasing value — up to and including his own son. Weird.

Usually, we hear this parable and assume it's an allegory: Jesus is the murdered son, the servants the prophets, etc. Fair enough. But notice — and here is where the weirdness deepens — Jesus seems to *disagree* with the Pharisees' interpretation that the landowner should and will punish the inheritance-obsessed murderers. So, is Jesus praising the psychotic and greedy murderers?! You can imagine the furrowed brows and deriding laughter as the scoffing crowd shuffles away.

If we stay with this tough parable, perhaps this truth emerges: God wants us to have an over-the-top obsession with a *totally undeserved inheritance*. Of course, we are forbidden to use violence. But the parable's violence gets our attention because it highlights the crazy goodness of the landowner. Jesus reveals that God is not merely in the business of rewarding the good and punishing the bad. He is playing a much stranger game — one marked by a kind of over-the-top mercy, a breathtaking giving of what is *not* deserved. What would our week look like if we embraced this kind of desire for God's kingdom on earth, even if others think we're nuts? This week let's seek God's kingdom with a passionate confidence in God's desire to give the good things we don't deserve.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR  
ORDINARY MOMENTS **The Gift that Gives Back**

It never ceases to amaze me how often I fall into the trap and end up grumbling about the greatest gifts in my life. A husband, children, a life that is full almost to bursting: these are things for which I once begged God. These are the jewels in the crown of my life.

Oh, but the children need care. Constant care. And a husband - a real flesh-and-blood creation of God, entrusted to me by God, to help me be holy and relying on me for holiness in turn - well, that relationship is a lot of work, isn't it? And a "full life" - I laugh to think of it, and then I blush with shame, because I admit sometimes, I do yearn for a life that is a little less ... *full*. A full life can leave you awfully tired at the end of the day.

I would imagine it's the same for everyone, no matter your life circumstances or vocation. Your greatest blessings are also those things that require much of you, more than you imagined you would ever be asked to give. The biggest jewels make the crown heavy.

But if we had any of these gifts without the effort it takes to maintain them, would they be half as sweet?

In this same way, the work of the vineyard is opened to us through baptism; we are given the chance to produce fruit for the kingdom. It's a chance we never dared to dream would be given to us.

It's a gift. But just like with any gift worth having, it requires effort. Upkeep. Work.

It requires that we give in return. And it's the giving that somehow, mystically, transforms us. It's the giving that turns into the gift itself.

**"...the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."**

— Matthew 21:43

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

God's kingdom is open to anyone who will produce its fruit. He offers it to every single one of us. We must be ready to bring forward the goodness of God into each and every day.

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Janet Matuszak	Dcn Rich Matuszak		Liberty Schroeder	Ron Matuszak Jr
October 15				Whitney Hock	Steve Hackl

#### INCOME FOR WEEK:

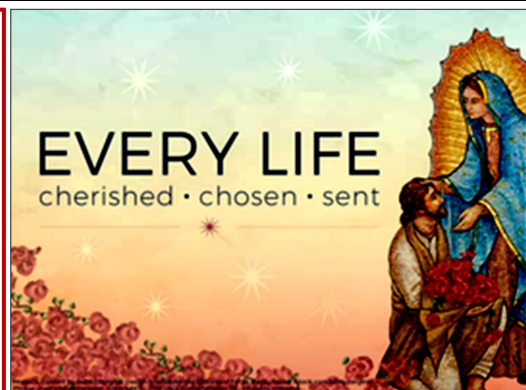
Church Support	\$ 870.00
Loose Collection	\$ 160.00
Building/Maintenance	\$ 140.00
Christian Women dues	\$ 4.00

#### DISBURSEMENTS:

Brightspeed	\$ 222.88
St Therese of the Little Flower	\$ 694.60
St John's Cost Share	\$ 6,151.55
Comcenter.com/RE Books	\$ 134.07
RE Registration/Postage	\$ 27.00
RE Retreat/Fr Xavier Amirtham	\$ 76.92

### Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday,  
October 15th



### Priests & Marriage Counseling

**Question:** How can a priest counsel people about marriage when he has never been married?

**Answer:** If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not. Some of the skills necessary to help others do come out of personal life experience. But you don't need personal, first-hand experience in order to understand something. We would not think that a doctor, who is an oncologist, would not be able to treat cancer because he himself has never been sick. We also would not expect every doctor to treat cancer. It is the same with priests.

Essentially marriage is a relationship and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends, and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God. In many ways a priest's training, background, and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples & specially trained counselors, most parishes offer a very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

#### Young Adult Evening Prayer

via Zoom with the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Tues: Oct 24, Nov 28 at 8pm

Register @ [ssnd.org/events](https://ssnd.org/events) OR Instagram @ssndsisters

*Please keep in your prayers, the families of  
Jim Goldapske and Kathleen Vande Corput  
who both recently passed away.  
May they be welcomed into  
eternal paradise with open arms.*



#### HOG ROAST

#### St Mary's Church

Parish Hall  
301 East Burdick St  
Black Creek, WI

Saturday, October 14, 2023

4:30 – 7:00 PM

Admission \$10.00 Kids ages 4-10 \$5.00

Pulled Pork (BBQ & Plain) - Hot Turkey

Cheesy Potatoes - German Potato Salad

Beans - Desserts

Handicap accessible ~ Everyone is Welcome!

# 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**