



SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	9/3	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Dan Roskom & Karen Vander Velden by Shirley Roskom Mass at St John's Don Raymaker	* Visiting Priest * * 2nd Collection - Missionary Cooperation
Tues	9/5	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Beverly VerVoort	
Wed	9/6	8:15 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Mass at St John's Mary Van Dyn Hoven Communion Service Holy Hour	
Thurs	9/7	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's Family of Bob & Diann Ciesielczyk	
Fri	9/8	8:15 AM	The Lost and Lonely	
Sat	9/9	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's Adrienne Cumicek	
Sun	9/10	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Larry & Dorothy Vanden Langenberg By the Family Mass at St John's Sylvester & Dolores Van Bostel	

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Choosing the Cross

I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I've never been called "Satan," at least not to my face.

It seems to me the worst name you could call a person, and today we hear it straight from the lips of Jesus. It's just one of the many small reminders strewn throughout Scripture that Jesus preaches meekness, but he is not mild — not when mildness serves no purpose, anyway.

And here, when Peter is trying to deter Jesus from making the right choice, mildness serves no purpose at all.

Can we blame Peter? I certainly can't. I'm sure I would have said the same thing to my own dear friend. He is, in today's Gospel, wholly unwilling to embrace the cross — he's afraid of it, even — but aren't we all, in the end, afraid of our cross? I am. It's no sin, it's only human. Fear is natural. Self-preservation is a reflex.

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday. But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. I have to believe that if even a firefighter's loved one threw themselves in his way, he would still charge toward the flames, crying, "Get behind me." Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear (and he had it, I promise you — he was human, too) but the fear of everyone who loved him.

**"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God..." — Romans 12:1**

Thank you Bonnie Laskowski for sponsoring the September Bulletin in memory of Ron's Anniversary of Death (9/17/1991) & your 60th Wedding Anniversary (9/28/1963). With Love, Bonnie

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Isn't it easy to relate to Peter? One moment Jesus announces Peter's deep communion with God the Father. The very next, when he rejects the logic of Jesus' suffering and death, Jesus calls Peter Satan. We Christians shouldn't be too shocked when we experience both spiritual highs and lows, when we perceive breathtaking contradictions in our hearts.

Like the great apostle, you and I are recipients of unfathomable graces. God dwells in us, calls his beloved children, and takes care of our every need. And we also continually fail to embrace our sufferings with trust in Jesus. We know the truth of the creed, but we easily scorn the weight of the cross.

The good news is that, like Peter, we are never abandoned by the Lord even at our worst moments. Peter will eventually learn the beauty of the cross when he is willingly crucified. But it took time for him to get there. And it takes time for us, too. This week let's not be too shocked at these divisions in our hearts but accept them and patiently seek to be more obedient to Jesus' cross-shaped plan for us.
— Father John Muir

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of learning! I want to grow closer to you in everything I do at school. In math and science, help me to see your beautiful plan in the world. Help me to discover new stories and values as I read and write. In arts and music, help me to be creative. In sports, help me to treat my teammates and my opponents fairly. Help me to learn new skills in technology. Jesus, you are the perfect teacher. Help me to listen with open ears, an open heart, and an open mind to all my teachers at school. Help me to treat my classmates with care, kindness, and respect. Thank you, Jesus, for school! Amen.



REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registration packets for religious education have been mailed. Please complete the registration form and return by 9/10/23. Please notify the parish office if you did not receive one.

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Chris Stedl	Georgian Rynish		Ella Ambrosius	Rick Stedl
September 10				Olivia Ambrosius	Louis Rynish

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 1,017.48
Loose Collection	\$ 109.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 10.00
Votive Candles	\$ 4.00
Improvements	\$ 250.00
Religious Education	\$ 75.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Brightspeed Internet	\$ 222.60
St Therese of Little Flower	\$ 20.40
GIA Publications	\$ 15.75
Quill corp. (supplies)	\$ 190.06
TG Analytical (water testing)	\$ 29.00

Everyday Stewardship - The Vision of Stewardship

How many public self-storage facilities can you find in your city or town? They seem to be popping up everywhere. One day I was talking to my neighbor and he was explaining that he just wanted to have his garage back again. He was thinking about moving everything to a storage unit so he could gain what he wanted more than all that stuff: space. We talked about the fact that if he chose to follow through with it there was no shortage of places to house all of it. Of course, we also agreed that it would be better to simply let go of all it. He could sell it or give it away. But, of course, it was good stuff! So good, in fact, one was tempted to rent a whole new space to house it!

I am not against stuff in principle, but I do realize that stuff can become a stumbling block to real freedom. Sometimes our possessions take on an importance that begins to dictate how we act or how we give of ourselves to God and others. An everyday steward seeks detachment from things of this world that will one day pass away. Things that we possess should be seen as pathways into experiences that glorify God, whether they allow us to serve others, enrich our lives lived daily for God, or even help make leisure and recreation time resting in God's presence easier. But the simpler the life, the fewer distractions there are from focusing on those we love and our relationship with God. And besides, do you really think a monthly payment to house stuff you don't really need is the best stewardship way of life?

~Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Town of Seymour Town Hall- Tire Recycling Drop Off

Saturday, September 16th. 7:00am to 1:00pm
N9296 State Rd 55 Seymour, WI 54165

- * Only tires generated from residential households will be accepted
- * Tires must be 18" or less (rims are ok)
- * Four tire limit per resident
- * No tires generated by businesses or farms will be accepted.



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.

We are sponsoring lunch for 200 People on September 16th at the NEW Community Homeless Shelter

We could use your help with donations of food, cooks & servers. If you can help in any way, there is a sign-up sheet in back of church. Any bit you can do is greatly appreciated!!

Church Teaching About suicide

Question: What does the Church say about suicide?

Answer: Unfortunately, despite the Church's clear teachings in resources like the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, there are still many people who are confused about what the Church teaches regarding the tragic reality of suicide.

While we hold that all life is sacred, we are also all-too aware that psychological, emotional and even physical illness — as well as extreme anxiety, fear, and abuse — can lead individuals to take their own lives. Speaking to this, the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* reflects, "Although suicide is always objectively sinful, one should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (pg. 294). The text also states the reality of illness or other extreme influences can "diminish the responsibility of one committing suicide" (pg.293).

Parishes and grief support groups should show special care and concern for those families that have lost a loved one to suicide. And, communities should always try to be mindful of those who might be at risk of suicide or self-harm.

If someone is contemplating suicide, please know that help is available, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).



A Prayer for Workers

God our Creator, Your Word worked wonders to create the heavens and the earth and all they contain. Jesus Christ our Savior and Brother, You labored alongside your foster father Joseph, living the life of an ordinary worker. Holy Spirit, we are baptized into your life. You live and move

and have your being in us as we go about our daily tasks. On this Employee Appreciation Day, may all who work recognize their intrinsic value. Show them that their worth depends not on any task, responsibility, or skill. Remind them that their dignity lies in You, oh Lord. In all of our labors, may we remember that we imitate You. Amen.

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