

March 23, 2025 • *Third Sunday of Lent*



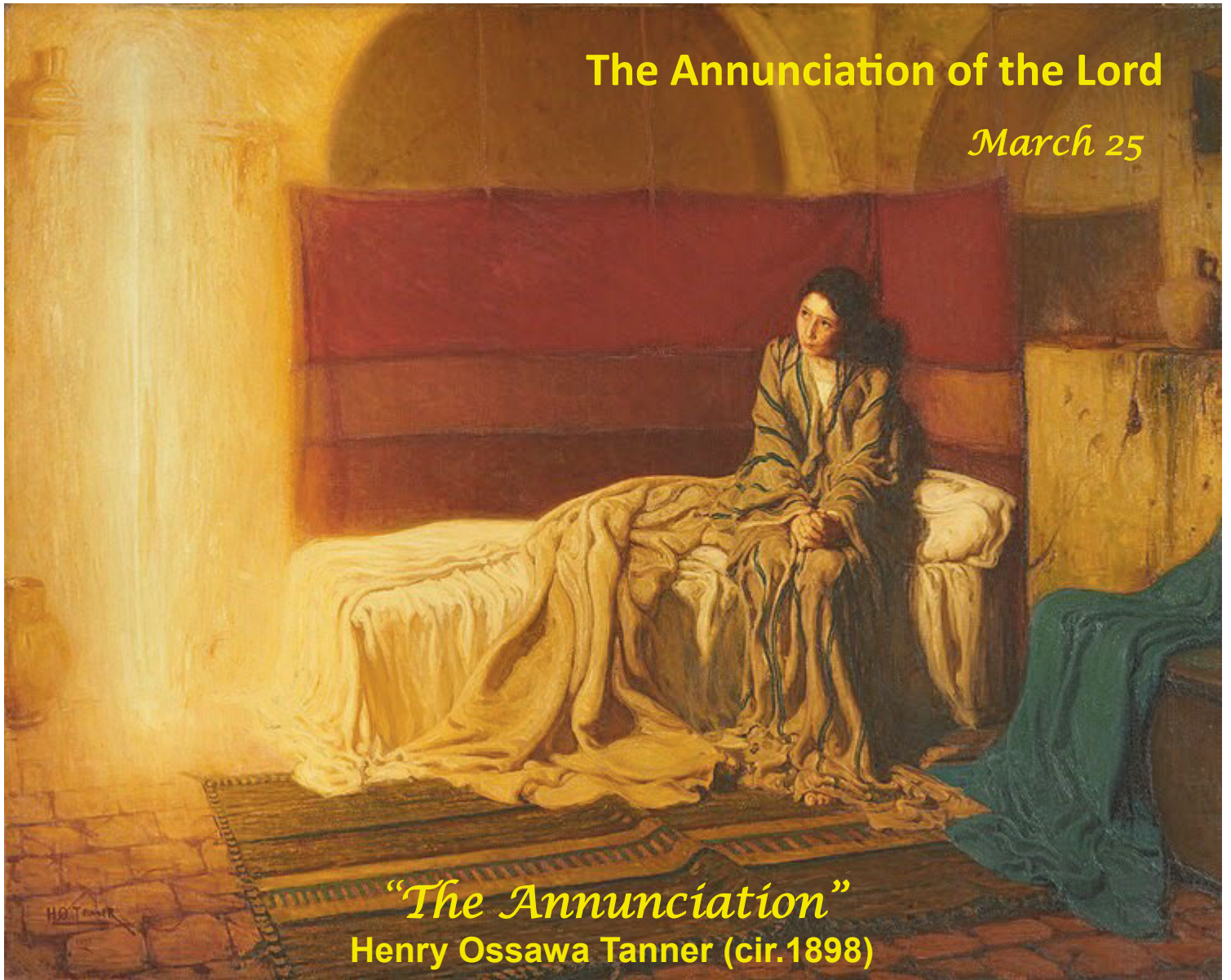
# *The Cathedral of* **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

[www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net)

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

*March 25*



DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood, *Bishop*

## LITURGY GUIDE - March 23, 2025

### The Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today!

**Please, silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral.** Help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances.

**Please, do not take pictures during the Mass celebration.** You are welcome to take pictures after Mass.

**INTROIT - (At 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM THE INTROIT IS SUNG BY THE CHOIR DURING THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION)**

<i>Oculi mei semper ad Dominum, quia ipse evellet de laqueo pedes meos: respice in me et miserere mei, quoniam unicus et pauper sum ego. (Verse) Ad te Domine levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam.</i>	My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. (Verse) Unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O my God, I trust in you, let me not be put to shame.
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**OPENING HYMN (4:00 PM & 7:30 AM) GRAEFENBERG  
620 Lord Jesus, As We Turn From Sin**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **(striking breast three times)** through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading Exodus 3:1- 8a, 13-15**

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

He answered, "Here I am."

God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.

I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said,

"I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

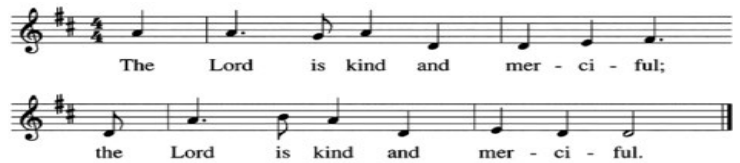
Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am."

Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

"This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11  
(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)**



Text: Refrain trans., *Lectioary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine  
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. **R**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R**

The Lord does just deeds, gives full justice to all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel. **R**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him. **R**

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.

These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did.

Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come.

Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

**Gospel Acclamation** **Please Stand**  
**(Sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)**



Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **R**

**Gospel** **Luke 13:1-9**

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** **Please Stand**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
**(bow here)** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**  
**PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY HYMN (4 PM & 7:30 AM)** **KINGSFOLD**  
**572** **I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

**OFFERTORY MOTET (9:15 AM)** John Goss  
O Savior of the World (1800-1880)

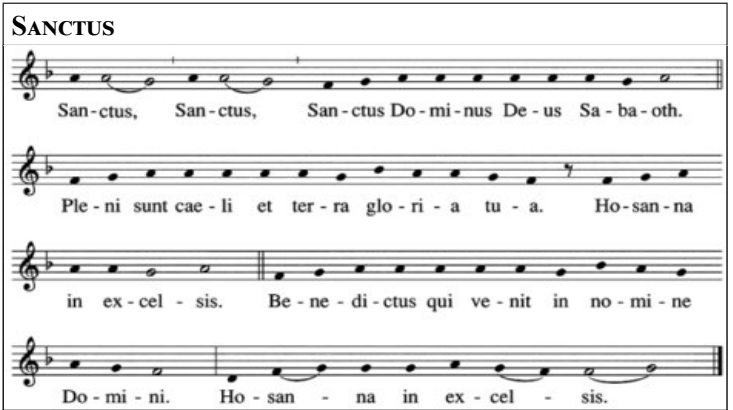
O Savior of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood  
hast redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech  
Thee, O Lord.  
Amen

**OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (11:00 AM)**

<i>Justitiae Domini rectae, laetificantes corda, et dulci ora super mel et favum: nam et servus tuus sustodiet ea.</i>	The ordinances of the Lord are right, bringing joy to all hearts, sweeter than honey or the honeycomb. Therefore your servant will observe them.
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**Celebrant:** Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.



## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



## AGNUS DEI



## ECCE AGNUS DEI

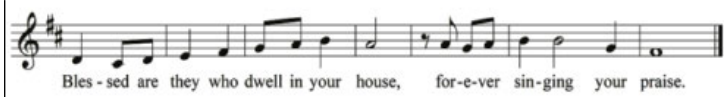
**Celebrant:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R.** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## HOLY COMMUNION

**All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with their arms crossed over their chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4:00PM)



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11:00 AM)

*Passer invenit sibi domum, et turtur nidum, ubi reponat pullos suos: altaria tua Domine virtutum, rex meus, et Deus meus: beati qui habitant in domo tua, in saeculum saeculi laudabunt te.*

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

## COMMUNION MEDITATION (9:15 AM)

What Wondrous Love is This Arr. Paul Christiansen

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross, What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul, That Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul, for my soul!, What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

## HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

593

## SWEET SACRAMENT

Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

## CLOSING HYMN

680

## INNSBRUCK

O Sacred Heart All Holy

## RECESSIONAL (9:15 AM)

Adoramus Te

G.P. Palestrina  
(1525-1594)

*Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi: quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.*

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

## CLOSING HYMN (11:00 AM)

443

## Ave Regina Caelorum

*Ave, Regina Caelorum, Ave, Domina Angelorum: Salve, radix, salve, porta Ex qua mundo lux est orta: Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Super omnes speciosa, Vale, o valde decora, Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

Hail, O Queen of Heaven. Hail, O Lady of Angels Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate From whom unto the world, a light has arisen: Rejoice, O glorious Virgin, Lovely beyond all others, Farewell, most beautiful maiden, And pray for us to Christ.

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## LENTEN MEAL & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A simple **Soup Supper** will be offered every Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall from 5:30-6:45 pm. Enjoy a meal & fellowship. Free will offering.

**Stations of the Cross** begin at 7:00PM in the main Cathedral.



## DONUT SOCIAL

**MARCH 30TH**  
**AFTER 9:15 MASS**  
 (Cathedral Parish Hall)

Get reminders or  
 volunteer here:



• Connect with fellow parishioners • Crafts & activities • Designated toddler area

## Fiat Dinner

**Who:** All Young Women Seeking God's Call

**What:** Mass, Dinner and Talks with Bishop DeGrood and religious communities

**When:** Sunday, April 27th, 4-8 pm

**Where:** Mater Ecclesiae Monastery  
 506 N Summit Ave, Sioux Falls

**RSVP:** [sfwomensdiscernment.org](http://sfwomensdiscernment.org)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

**Eucharistic Ministers** - Fr DeWayne Kayser is requesting additional help with distribution of **Holy Communion** at Avera McKennan Hospital at their main campus and at the Avera Specialty Hospital. If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful and blessed opportunity please call Fr. Kayser [605-322-7948](tel:605-322-7948) or Julie Holms at [605-322-7897](tel:605-322-7897) or go directly to the website at <https://www.avera.org/about/volunteer/> and fill out the application. It is easy and quick.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in this Corporal Work of Mercy, ministry to the sick.

**Tonight! March 23, 7:00pm Shroud of Turin Presentation - The Burial Cloth of Christ** at St. Therese Parish, 901 N. Tahoe Trail, SFSD. Deacon Bill Radio explores the scientific, historical and theological significance and connection to Christ's Passion and Resurrection. A great Lenten presentation about one of the most studied relics in history.

### Diocesan Vocation Camps:

**Saint Maria Goretti Camp**-June 4-6, 2025 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD. This camp is for young women ages 12-16, led by religious sisters. Please contact Fr. Michael Kapperman: [frmichaelkapperman@sfcatholic.org](mailto:frmichaelkapperman@sfcatholic.org) Emma: [605-988-3772](tel:605-988-3772).

**JPH Vocations Camp** - July 29-August 1, 2025 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD. For young men ages 12-16, led by Priests and seminarians of the diocese. Please contact Fr. Tony Klein: [frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org](mailto:frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org) or Emma: [605-988-3772](tel:605-988-3772).



Moms and expectant Moms are invited to our next **"Under Mary's Mantle"** meeting of the series on topics of mothering during the early years on Tuesday, **March 25**, at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room at Holy Spirit Church in Sioux Falls. The next meeting topic is **"Motherhood and the First Three Years."**

If you were unable to attend the first meeting, you may join any of the remaining ones in the series. Young children are welcome! For more information or to inquire please contact Sandy at [605-421-1104](tel:605-421-1104).

5<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



## Liturgical Roles

Daily Mass - Ministers as Scheduled



March 29/30

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Mark Weber, Carolee Weber  
 7:30 am Sandy Fitzgibbons, Gerald Frisbie  
 9:15 am John Moneke, Don Rahn, Jeff Heron  
 11:00 am Mary Enderson, Matt Enderson, Bob Lux  
 4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

### Lectors

4:00 pm Nicholas Lanners, Kristen Haar  
 7:30 am Michael Fitzgibbons  
 9:15 am Ruth Bordewyk, Robert Binstock  
 11:00 am Max Boyum, Eva Boyum  
 4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

### Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
 7:30 am Thomas Mogle  
 9:15 am Megan Ulin, Will Ulin, Asher Hunt  
 11:00 am James Mogle, Dominic Ostermann, Quintin Rasmussen  
 4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

### Mini-Bus Driver

4:00 pm Denise Rotert

**Dow Rummel** Diane Bauch

**Good Sam** Betty Barto-Smith

### Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

**Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Scrutiny:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 / Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/ Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/ Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/ Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

**Next Sunday:** Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 /Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 **Scrutiny:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Jane Barnett** is Cathedral 500 Club's fourth winner for March 2025. She has received a check for **\$87**. Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) of the Cathedral. Cost is \$5/month. Applications must be received by **March 31** to be in the April 2025 drawings. Call the Parish Office at [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390) for details.

## Mass Intentions:

- Mon. Mar. 24•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 pm Emily Johansen
- Tue. Mar. 25•** *The Annunciation of the Lord*  
12:00 pm Emily Johansen
- Wed. Mar. 26•** *Lenten Weeday*  
12:00 pm Carmelite Sisters
- Thu. Mar. 27•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 am † James Kinney
- Fri. Mar. 28•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 pm Special Intention
- Sat. Mar. 29•** *Lenten Weekday*  
4:00 pm † Richard Martin
- Sun. Mar. 30•** *Fourth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday*  
7:30 am † Karla Esser  
9:15 am Pro Populo  
11:00 am Kay Don Tibbetts  
4:00 pm Susan DeSchepper

## Sanctuary Candles

The five hanging Sanctuary Candles in the Sacred Heart Chapel are available for prayer intentions.

- 1.) † Myron Truex
- 2.) † Phyllis Allen
- 3.) † Ray Lux
- 4.) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 5.) Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Monday, March 24 -**  
6:30 pm - Young Adults

**Tuesday, March 25-**  
9:00 am - Quilter's Group, School  
10:00 am - Women's Group/Bible Study, School (200)

**Wednesday, March 26 -**  
6:45 pm - OCIA, Parish Hall

**Thursday, March 27-**  
7:00 pm - Adoration & Confessions, SH Chapel

**Friday, March 28 -**  
5:30 - 6:45 pm - Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall  
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, Cathedral Nave

**Saturday, March 29-**  
12:00 & 3:00 pm - Confessions in the Cathedral Nave  
Restored Rectory Open House - After the 4:00pm Mass

**Sunday, March 30 -**  
Restored Rectory Open House-After all of the Masses  
After 9:15 am Mass -Donut Social in the Parish Hall  
2:30 pm - St. Josephine Bakhita, First Communion Class, Cafeteria

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Alleluia! Moving Day is Soon!** - Come to one of the Rectory Open Houses either March 29/30 or April 5/6 after all of the Weekend Masses. Come see what our Parish Community has



accomplished with their time, talent and treasures. The Quilters have created beautiful quilts for the beds and the set-up crew have been busy getting the rectory ready for the priests to move in.

Thank you all for your generosity!

## Welcome New Members!

*Thank you for choosing Cathedral of St. Joseph for your Faith Family*

**Butrus & Rachel Bol and Sarah, Sabino & Coleta Hassen Bol  
Paul Bol  
Kevin Bowker  
MaKaela Karst**

*If you are interested in becoming a Cathedral Parishioner please, contact the Parish Office at 605-336-7390.*

*Baptism*

*Anointed by the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism*

**Andrew Joseph Pickelman** - son of Marc & Alyssa

**Congratulations and welcome into our Family of Faith!**

If you are expecting or have a child to be baptized, please call Deacon Bill Radio **605-336-7390** for baptism planning.

WITH HEARTFELT  
**SYMPATHY**

*Please pray for the repose of the soul of*

**Trudy McCaffrey** - Wife of Garfield McCaffrey  
**Massa Spader** - Granddaughter of Duane & Elaine Spader

*May all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**2025 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA)** - CFSA challenges us each year to think beyond our walls and our individual needs. Your gift helps each of the diocesan ministries reach out to thousands, for example: training our future priests, respect for life, faith formation, ministry to the homebound and help for hurting marriages. Please, prayerfully consider a gift to this year's appeal, fill out your pledge card and return it to the church; in person, by mail, or drop in the collection basket. Thank you!

## WEEKLY OFFERING MARCH 15/16

	Envelopes	\$	8,990.00
	Online/EFT	\$	6,265.00
	Visitors/Loose Cash	\$	4,379.48
		<b>Total \$</b>	<b>19,634.48</b>

*Scan QR code to be directed to our Giving Page  
Thank you for your Support and Prayers!*

## CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

**Parish Office:** [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

**Parish Office Email:** [cathedral@sfatholic.org](mailto:cathedral@sfatholic.org)

**Office Hours:** 9:00am-4:00pm M-Th, 9:00am-3:00pm Fri.  
Closed - Saturday and Sunday

### Cathedral Church Hours:

Monday-Saturday - 8:00am-4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am-Noon & 3:30pm-5:00pm

### Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 4:00pm (First Sat. of the month a Mass at 9am)

**Sunday** 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,  
4:00pm (St. Josephine Bakhita Community)

### Weekday Masses

**Cathedral** - Monday - Friday, 12:00pm (Noon)

**Monastery** - Monday - Saturday, 7:00am

### Confessions

**Thursday** 7:00pm (w/Adoration) in the Sacred Heart Chapel

**Saturday** 12:00pm & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral Nave  
(In the Sacred Heart Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

### Adoration

**Sacred Heart Chapel** - Thurs. 7:00-8:00pm (w/confessions)

**Cathedral** - 11:00am, First Friday of the month

**Monastery** - Mon-Sat 7:45am-6:00pm, Sun 10:30am-6pm

### Tours

**Self-guided** - 1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

**Guided Tours-By appointment** [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

### Parish Staff

**Rector**, Very Rev. James P. Morgan

**Parochial Vicar**, Rev. Pasquale Armando Francesco

**Weekend Sacramental Assistance**, Rev. Anthony Klein

**Deacon**, William Radio

**Deacon**, Jonathan Eckrich

**Director-Operations & Finance**, Heidi Solem

**Administrative Assistant**, Mary Anne Lux

**Music Director**, Dr. Jared Ostermann

**Assistant Music Director**, Nicole Gerdes

**Tour Docent/Guide**, Susan Albers

**Wedding Coordinator**, Mary Enderson

**Counseling Services, The Lourdes Center** - [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775)

### Sacramental Preparation:

**Baptism** - The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11:AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting.

To schedule a meeting for Baptism preparation contact the parish office at [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390).

**Matrimony** - Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact the parish office. All others please contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to [www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net) under Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick** - Please call the parish office to request this Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery or in the case of serious illness.

**Catholic Cemetery** - St. Michael's Cemetery [605-338-3376](tel:605-338-3376)

## CLERGY REFLECTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have sometimes wondered, if we were to rank the most influential speeches ever given, what would be the top 5? Certainly we have a rich history in our own nation of powerful speeches, despite our youthful nation. Dating back to Pre-Christian times, we have great discourses to soldiers before battle. These speeches are to inspire, bolster courage, and give the flame of intensity needed to achieve the task at hand.

God works in His own ways. More famous than any speech, a simple and humble virgin changes the course of the whole world in 5 simple Latin words: "Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum." May it be done unto me according to thy word. More than the most powerful and eloquent speech, these words changed the course of history. Through the humility and trust of her yes, she allows God to work through her, to take flesh in her, and to usher in the time of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Mary's "yes" must continue. We cannot take it as an isolated event to just admire from afar. We must imitate her. Her yes must resonate with our continued "yes" that we make daily. Mary did not have the master plan of what was to come, but in perfect trust she was able to assent to God's will. We often don't know where our "yes" will take us, but like Mary we must trust that the same God who is calling us to take that step will provide for us what we need. May we pray for the trust of Mary!

Lastly, we must imitate God in all that we can. God came to us through Mary, and so we can and should return to Him through her.

May Our Lady intercede for you, especially on the great Feast of the Annunciation, and may your journey of Lent continue under her care!

God bless you,  
Fr. Klein

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