

**Saint Christina Parish of Turner County
PO Box 610 Parker, South Dakota 57053**

Sunday, August 22, 2021

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

The time of “back to school” stirs up my heart. It gives me “all the feels” as the kids say. There is the excitement of a new year, a new grade, a new teacher and new friends. There is the nervousness about what the year will hold. There is the joy of seeing friends again after summer. There is the sadness of leaving behind a time of vacation to enter back into the full schedule of the school year. And of course, there is the pride of showing off all your new school supplies. For those of you who are still in school, it perhaps does not seem so wonderful. Yet, I would guess that for most of us who are no longer in school, there is a part of us that misses the adventure of a new school year.

I spent the last three years serving as the chaplain for O’Gorman Junior High. I always enjoyed watching the incoming 7th Graders. They would transform from quiet and apprehensive “rookies” during the first couple weeks of school into energetic and confident “veterans” by the end of the semester. I think this is one of the most powerful aspects of an education; a true education is able to form the whole human person. It is not just about getting knowledge into the brain, but rather education is about forming the character of the student. A well-educated person will be a virtuous person, who feels

responsible for making the world a better place, who knows how to live in healthy relationships with others, who is truly wise-meaning, they use their knowledge for the good of others.

One could say that Jesus came to help educate us. He is the Teacher of Teachers. Jesus did not come to simply transmit knowledge or facts to us. Rather, Jesus sought to form a new people, a new humanity. He gave us the Kingdom of God in which we can live differently. It is only through Jesus that we can truly live a god life, one that is for others. We might only be in formal religious education classes for several years, but our education in Christ is a life-long process. We never graduate from the school of the Gospel. In fact, every single day is “the first day of school” when Jesus is our teacher. Every day is a new adventure with Jesus as he forms us more and more into the person we were created to be.

One more thing, we really do need classmates in education in the Gospel. This is not a class that we can do an “independent study” in. Christian community is absolutely essential to our growth in holiness. It is my hope that our parish can be a place where we walk together, learn together, and grow together. We are all students of Jesus and his Gospel (myself included!) and so we need to support one another. I hope each time we gather as a parish it can have all the excitement of that first day of school.

God bless,

Fr. Tyler

Email: frtylermattson@sfcatholic.org

WEEKLY MASSES—— *St. Christina*

**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 22nd: Mass 11:00AM**

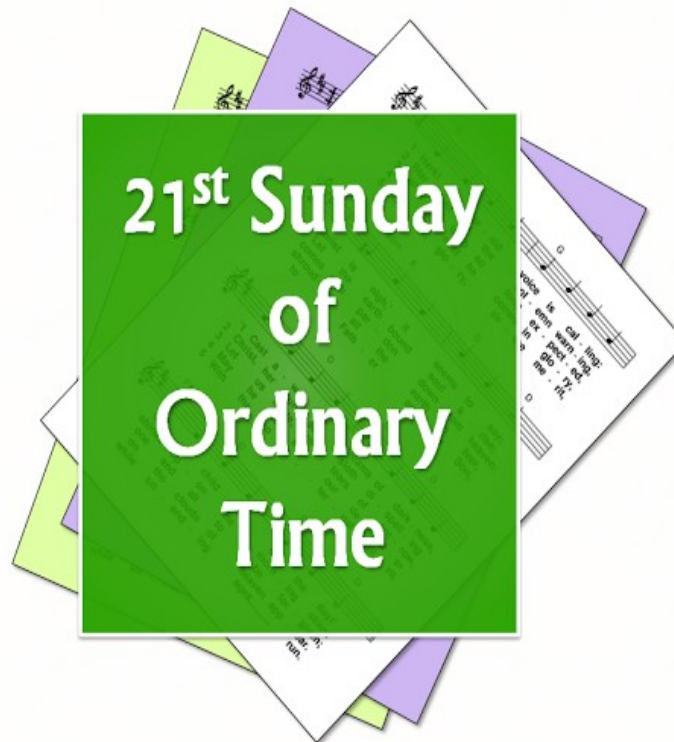
Confessions-5 to 5:45PM-Tuesday, August 24th

**Holy Mass: Tuesday, August 24th —6:00PM
Int: +John & Mary Christiansen**

**Holy Mass: Thursday, August 26th—8:00AM
Int: +Jim & Marianne Frazer**

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 29th: Mass 11:00AM**

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Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Bud Ozar

Even though many found the teachings of Jesus “difficult”, He did not back down. In our families it is important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love and guide with understanding.

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St. Christina Church Support: Deposited

Monday, August 16th, 2021:

**37 Env. Reg. Giving \$1995.00; 1 Env. Reg. Giving \$80.00;
Candles \$2.00; Loose Giving \$92.00;
2 Env. CFSA \$265.00; 1 Env. Fuel Fund \$100.00.**

Wednesday, August 18th, 2021:

3 Env. Reg. Giving \$300.00.

Thank You for your Generous Treasure.

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It was inspiring and uplifting when we met and visited with Father Tyler in the Parish Hall after Mass Tuesday Evening, August 10th. He welcomed ideas and also agreed that some changes will be made in the future.

We all need to be patient as we work and plan together for the betterment of the entire parish. A good group was able to attend mass and meet. If you were unable to attend please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with fellow parishioners and/or email the Parish or Father Tyler.

stchristina@iw.net;

frtylermattson@sfcatholic.org

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St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Bridgewater is

Preparing and selling their Whole Hog

Sausage again this year.

Pre-orders MUST be received by Friday, September 10th.

Call: 605-729-2714 or 605-214-0389

\$7.50 per pound & sold in 1-pound rings or ground squares.

Pickup Orders: Sunday, October 3rd from 1:30 to 4:00PM.

At St. Stephen's Parish Hall