

Catholic Tri-Parish Community

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ST. PETER - Colman
STS. SIMON & JUDE - Flandreau
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL - Elkton
105 S. Bates St., FLANDREAU, SD 57028
Father Melvin Kuhn, Pastor
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This past year the parishes of St Peter's, Sts. Simon & Jude, and OLGC have had a fair number of baptisms – which is always something good to see. This also presents, however, a good opportunity to talk a little bit about baptism.

One main thing I would like to do is encourage (or perhaps even insist) that parents get babies baptized *as soon as possible*. You can prepare for the baptism, even set a tentative date, prior to the birth of the child if you like – this is how important it is to get the child baptized as soon as possible. When someone dies, it's not uncommon for people today to say to the family something like: they're in Heaven now, or: they're in better place. Although it is a good work of mercy to console the sorrowful, you don't actually know that that's true. The one exception to knowing the final end of someone who has died (other than canonized saints) are baptized infants (or any baptized child who has not yet reached the age of reason). If a baptized baby dies, that child does go straight to Heaven.

If an unbaptized child dies, it appears to be unknown what their final end is or will be. Pope Benedict XVI set up a commission to study the question of what God has revealed about the final end of unbaptized babies and, as far as I know, it was inconclusive; i.e., it appears that God has simply not revealed this. We just don't know what His plan is for unbaptized babies that die. Whatever it is, it will be consistent with His love, mercy, and justice. It might not be just a matter of: in or out. St Augustine speculated that unbaptized infants would not suffer, that they would be in a very nice place (to put it simply) for all eternity, but not in Heaven. Perhaps we could also speculate that God would give them some sort of trial period – like He did with the angels – where they would have to choose whether or not they wanted to follow Him. People often think: of course they go to Heaven, they're innocent. But we have to be careful not to undermine the importance of baptism. Remember what our Lord said to Nicodemus: unless you are born of water and Spirit, you *cannot* enter the Kingdom of Heaven; He is talking about baptism here. There are things that God has not revealed (for example: the time of our death and when the end of the world will be) and what He has *not* revealed is as much for our good as what He *has* revealed. In the case of the final end of unbaptized infants, suppose God had revealed that they go straight to Heaven (and maybe they do; it's just that we don't know). There would then be plenty of deranged people who would (today) undergo superovulation, fertilization, and flushing of embryos, just to have them killed so they could claim they are sending God angels or some such thing. So again, there are reasons that God has not revealed some things to us.

The main point of all of this, though, is that while it's unknown what happens to unbaptized babies that die, it is known with certainty what happens to baptized ones – they go straight to Heaven. While it's true, then, that the accidental/unintentional death of babies is (thankfully) fairly infrequent in our country today, at the same time things can and do happen. I have only been a priest for 7 years, with most of that in small parishes, and I have already had a funeral for a baby. As sad as that is, I was very happy to know that the child had been baptized. That child now resides in the Kingdom of Heaven for all eternity – something so magnificent that even if the child had a chance to come back to this world, he would not desire to do so. So don't gamble with the eternal life of your

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**12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JUNE 20, 2021**

Liturgy Schedule			Location	Mass Intention
Mon., June 21	5:30 PM	Mass	Flandreau	Personal Intention
Tues., June 22	5:30 PM	Mass	Flandreau	† Helen Rueschenberg
Wed., June 23	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Elkton	† Anastasia Gebhart
Thur., June 24	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Colman	Annie Garvey
Fri., June 25	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Flandreau	dec. & ill CDA members
Sat., June 26	7:00 PM	Mass	Colman	All Parishioners
Sun., June 27	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Mass	Elkton Flandreau	† Dale/Maxine Lynn † Jim/Bob Redder
<p>CONFESSIONS : - Elkton & Colman 1/2 hour prior to weekend Mass - Flandreau after Sunday Mass</p> <p>ROSARY: - prayed 1/2 hour prior to each weekend Mass.</p>				

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

COLMAN ~ SAT., JUNE 26

Lector: Mary Beth Zwart

Altar Servers: Ben/Anna Zwart

ELKTON ~ SUN., JUNE 27

Lector: Judy Kampmann

Altar Servers: Aidan Owens, Colt Beck

FLANDREAU ~ SUN., JUNE 27

Lector: Erica Rorvik

Altar Servers: Katherine/Isabel Kulm
Josie Hamilton

Sacristan: Erica Rorvik

Daily Readings for the Week

June 21: Genesis 12:1-9; Ps 33:12-13,18-22; Matthew 7:1-5

June 22: Genesis 13:2,5-18, Ps 15:2-5; Matthew 7:6,12-14

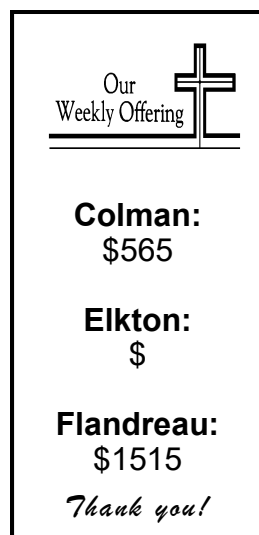
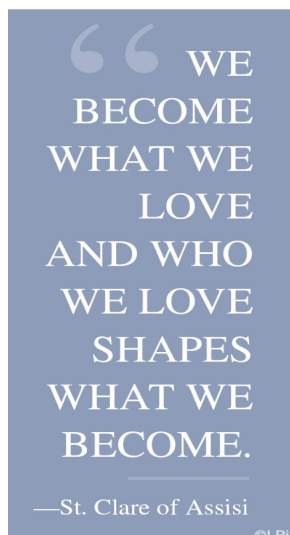
June 23: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Ps 105:1-9; Matthew 7:15-20

June 24: Isaiah 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3,13-15; Acts 13:22-26;
Luke 1:57-66,80

June 25: Genesis 17:1,9-10,15-22; Ps 128:1-5; Matthew 8:1-4

June 26: Genesis 18:1-15; Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 8:5-17

June 27: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; Ps 30:2-6,11-13;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



Intention of the Holy Father for July:

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

July/August Mass Schedule

Elkton - Saturday at 5:00 PM
Colman - Sunday at 8:30 AM

STS. SIMON & JUDE

Host Family Needed for two Lumen Christi (formerly Totus Tuus) team members for Sat., July 31- Thur., August 5. Contact Laura 530-9428 or Marietta 864-3182.

Finance Council Mtg: Thur., June 24 - 6:30 PM.



Welcome through Baptism
into our parish family to
Calder Craig Johanson,
son of David & Gina.

Adult Ed Class Final Gathering

Sunday, June 27th - 3:00 PM
in SS&J Church basement.

Bishop DeGrood is Inviting every person in our diocese to join in his vision of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*. Visit sfcatholic.org/vision to join the mission.

Youth in grades 7-12 summer bible study with the Lumen Christi missionaries. Groups meet 1-2 times a week either in person or over Zoom. Find out more at www.sfcatholic.org/lumenchristi

Junior High D-Camp: July 15-18, 2021 Register at www.sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/



"Bishop's Cup" on August 23 Benefiting Broom Tree Retreat & Conference Center: For more information or to register visit ccfesd.org/events/bishops-cup or contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 605-988-3765.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Blessed Imelda Lambertini Catholic Formation Camp

Camp will be held **July 27th through July 30th** from 5:30pm to 8:00pm for grades **Pre-K through 5th**. A light supper will be provided for the children. Cost is free. Registration forms are at the back of the church or call Sharon Landsman at 605-592-0627.

The Ladies Guild is working on the Harvest Festival, which is August 20 & 21. Judy Kampmann and Carol McMahon are the co-chairs. If there is anyone who would like to co-chair with us, contact Judy or Carol.

St. Mary Cemetery Annual Meeting:
Wed., June 30 - 3:00 at St. Mary's Hall

ST. PETER

The Marian (Our Lady of Fatima) Grotto: The gates of the little grotto on the north side of the church were closed once in the process of moving the altar rail and I noticed how nice they look. So I thought we would just leave them closed. But that is for decorative purposes only. You can still go in there and light candles and pray before the statue any time you like -- the gate is not locked and it is by no means there to keep people out. Just try to remember to close the gate behind you when you leave. Thanks, Fr Kuhn.

Director of Campus Ministry for Dakota State University, Madison and St Thomas Aquinas Parish. To obtain a job description or further information, please contact Twila Roman, HR Director, at troman@sfcatholic.org Resume and cover letters may be emailed to her or sent to her at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 523 N Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.



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child – **get them baptized as soon as possible**. The pastor of these 3 parishes *is* lazy, but even he will get children baptized as soon as possible!

Why do people sometimes delay or postpone baptism? One of the biggest factors seems to be getting all the relatives together. The baptism of a child is certainly a time for celebration and it is understandable that parents would like for all their family members to be there. But the parents' first concern must be for the eternal good of their child. Getting family members together to celebrate is a far distant second. Grandparents, brothers & sisters, aunts & uncles – please understand this and support new parents in getting their child baptized as soon as possible. Instead of looking at schedules or convenient times, say instead: well I can't make it then but by all means get the child baptized, don't wait for me. Or better yet, say something like: you set a date as soon as possible and we'll do what we can to be there. Even if the only people who can be there are the parents and one or two sponsors, be happy with that and get the child baptized; you can always arrange a time for celebration later.

There seems to be a common misconception about baptism or more generally about the sacraments altogether. It seems that the sacraments are sometimes viewed as just a ceremony or ritual, a time to get together and socialize and celebrate – something like a graduation ceremony. So let's consider the difference between the two. Suppose I ran up to Brookings while SDSU was having their graduation ceremony for the medical students (assuming they have a medical school!) and I snuck in line, walked across the stage, and got me one of those med school diplomas. Would you let me do surgery on you? Of course not – or at least I hope not! Why not? It's because that's *only* a ceremony (or rite or ritual); it does not cause what it represents or is a sign of; going across the stage and getting a diploma does not make me a doctor. This is where the sacraments differ from man-made ceremonies or rituals. The Rite (or ceremony) of the sacrament actually causes that which it represents. In baptism, for example, there is the pouring of water which symbolizes washing and, to a degree, new life. But the sacrament, unlike the graduation ceremony, actually causes (or results in) that which the sign indicates – namely cleansing and new life. In other words, baptism is not just a nice ritual that we go through and a time for a family celebration. It was created by God and it causes (does) that which it's a sign of. The important thing is the baptism; celebrations are good but they can be arranged any time.

In the discussion about what happens with unbaptized infants, you might have wondered what happens to unbaptized adults and especially those who had no opportunity for baptism – those who lived before the time of our Lord, before baptism was created. Take, for example, Moses and Abraham or for that matter even St Joseph. What about them? The Church has always recognized 3 forms of baptism: by water (the “usual” sacrament of baptism), of desire, and by blood. Baptism of desire means that the person had a great desire to be united with God and lived out His commands and repented when they failed. In short, they desired baptism, which applies to Moses, Abraham, and so on. Baptism by blood means that the person died for the faith before being baptized. Baptism by blood is really a sort of special case of baptism of desire. The difference with an unbaptized baby is simply that they were not old enough yet to develop this desire.

One last thing that needs to be mentioned is emergency baptism. If you know before the child is born that they have a real risk of dying, arrange to have the child baptized immediately upon birth. In the event that a priest or deacon cannot be there soon enough, anyone can baptize. To do so, you simply pour water over their head and say: Name (John, Mary, whatever the child's name is) I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Don't mess around with the words; say them all to make sure it is a valid baptism. I know of a child that needed surgery immediately after birth and there was a priest on hand who could have easily and quickly baptized the child. But the parents said no, we want to have all of our family there for the baptism. This is a gross, *gross*, neglect and total misunderstanding of the sacrament and its importance. If there's an emergency, get the child baptized.

God bless you, Fr. Kuhn