



“...some issues involve principles that can never be abandoned, such as the fundamental right to life and marriage as the union of one man and one woman.”

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB*

### National Memorial Concerts

National Memorial Concerts in Washington, D.C., have always been a beautiful tribute to our Armed Forces. I congratulate the people who put the show together every year, who gather the special and the wonderfully talented singers who perform.

As I write this, I am still moved remembering the stories they told of the men who were wounded and shattered and of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect us and our country. Oh, so many, many wars.

I can't help comparing them and the war of abortion - and it is a war! Babies are killed in the wombs of their mothers in the death camps of abortion clinics. Their little arms and legs are ripped to shreds just as surely as those of our soldiers and they, too, pay the ultimate sacrifice.

Why?? Sin has become justified, legalized and glorified but it is still 'Sin.' We have become blind to sin and its effects. Aren't we supposed to be “The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave”? What has happened to our country? Why do we continue to allow abortions to happen? Why?

*Ruth Weber Davenport Iowa*

### Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Are you being called to be St. John's delegate to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana **July 21-24, 2024**? Every parish in the West River diocese is being encouraged to send representatives to this historic, spirit-filled event who will, afterwards, help our parish grow in love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. If you are being called to go or want to suggest the name of a fellow parishioner, please contact the office ASAP. We will try to have our parishioner/s designated within the next month. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

“O Lord, we cannot go to the pool of Siloe to which you sent the blind man. But we have the chalice of

Your Precious Blood, filled with life and light. The purer we are, the more we receive.”

St. Ephraem

news and resources at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/>

**ANIMA CHRISTI:** Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me; Blood of Christ, inebriate me; Water from the side of Christ, wash over me; Passion of Christ, strengthen me; O good Jesus, hear me; Within your wounds hide me; Separated from You, let me never be; From the evil one protect me; At the hour of my death, call me; And close to You bid me; That with your saints, I may be, praising You forever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Select-A-Gift program has made Christmas special for many families from the Custer area for decades. The Select-A-Gift tree will be set up in our church November 1 through December 17<sup>th</sup>. This year we are expecting to help over 200 families with gifts for adults and children. Please help us continue to spread Holiday Joy as we launch the 2023 giving season by taking an envelope off the Select-A-Gift tree, enclose a donation, and deposit it in the red donation box. Or you can mail to: Select A Gift, PO Box 366, Custer SD 57730 Please make checks out to Custer Ministerial Alliance and put Select A Gift in the memo line. Thank you for your support over the years!**

**AN ACT OF CONTRITION** (*outside the confessional*): O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they [have] offend[ed] Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.



### Monthly Devotion (Dec) Immaculate Conception

In need of a visit? Contact the parish church office or Dn. Pat Coy

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**AN ACT OF CONTRITION** (*during a confession*): My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen

~ FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES ~

Contact Amy Julian or Linda Drake ([FAMILYLIFE@DIORC.ORG](mailto:FAMILYLIFE@DIORC.ORG) or 605/343-3541) for more info on any FLM-sponsored event or visit [WWW.RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/FLM](http://WWW.RAPIDCITYDIOCESE.ORG/FLM)

**Courage** is an international apostolate which ministers to persons with same-sex attraction (SSA) who desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. **EnCourage** is a ministry within Courage dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who experience SSA. Members in both groups support one another through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Contact [COURAGE@DIORC.ORG](mailto:COURAGE@DIORC.ORG) for info on Courage. Contact [ENCOURAGE@DIORC.ORG](mailto:ENCOURAGE@DIORC.ORG) for info on EnCourage. Or call 605/787-3837 for either ministry.

**The "Flame of Love" Cenacle** meets on Thurs. evenings at 6:30P at the home of Delores & Dennis Dahm: 25308 Sidney Park Rd. Contact the Dahms at 605/673-5333.

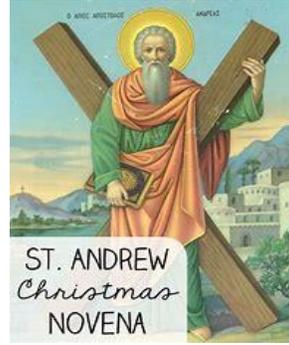
**The Parish Lending Library** is available during Office Hours, Tues-Thurs 9-12. Please sign out any books you borrow on the Check-Out Sheet inside the door.

## **The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2023**

**For persons with disabilities:** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. (See also <http://www.popesprayerusa.net/>)

## **PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



What is the Saint Andrew Novena? It is a devotion, also known as the Christmas Anticipation Prayer, that starts on the feast day of St Andrew the Apostle, November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. It consists in reciting the prayer found below 15 times each day of the novena period. Its exact

origin is unknown, but it is believed to have begun in Ireland during the 19th century. This is a very meditative prayer that brings about graces, increases our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and prepares us spiritually for His coming.

## **Novena**

**Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen. Recite the above prayer 15 times a day from November 30 to December 24**