

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
449 HARNEY ST 147 N 5TH ST ~ PO BOX 632
CUSTER, S.D. WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG

Parish Pastoral Staff

Pastor: **Fr. Collins Igwilo** 605/673-4426
605/745-3278 CIGWILO@DIORC.ORG (office)
(after-hours/emergency)

Deacon: **Dn. Pat Coy** 605/209-4636
605/574-2605 LOFTLANDRANCH@GMAIL.COM (mobile)

Hours: **Office Information** 605/673-4426
Tues. – Thurs., 9A – NOON (office)
Fr. Igwilo in the office Tues.-Fri. 9A-2P

Office Manager: **Kate Ryan** 605/673-4426
STJOHNS@GWTC.NET (office)

Bookkeeper: **Brenda Oster** 605/673-4426

WEEKLY CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

Visit the National WWW.EUCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG site today!

Second Week in Advent (Fr. Igwilo in Hot Springs)

12/11 Mon. 7:00A Holy Communion *outside* Mass
5:00P KC Rosary for all parishioners

12/12 Tues. 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings &
Morning Prayer [OR & MP]

12/13 Wed. 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

12/14 Thurs. 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

12/15 Fri. 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

12/16 Sat. 7:30A Most Holy Rosary *for Life*

Second Sun. of Advent

5:30P Sun. Vigil Mass
(Int.: Hail Mary)

12/17 Sun. 8:00A Sun. Mass
(Int.: *Mary Eide*)

Note: * indicates that incense will be burned.

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Attention Adorers!

Please make room for Jesus at the Inn of your Heart on **Friday, December 22**. We will offer Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7am until 5:45pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation begins at 5pm with Benediction to follow. Mass begins at 6pm. Please watch for sign-up sheets at the entrances to the church after Mass this weekend. Adoration will truly help keep Christ in Christmas.

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY! Visit WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/GIVE (online) or WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/GIVE-APP (mobile app). Create a profile with an e-mail address and a password, set-up a way to give, and begin giving electronically (i.e., e-tithing). So far, we have **42 registered families** and are **processing \$ 640.38 over 22 weeks so far in FY24** Interested? Contact Brenda at the parish church office.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: through December 3, 2023

General Collection	\$ 2,574.24	Anawim Fund	\$ 0.00
- via e-giving	\$ 651.24	Major Capital Fund	\$ 40.00
Adopt-A-Seminararian	\$ 83.00	Votive Candles	\$ 25.00
Special Collections:			
Gathering Area	\$ 155.00		
CC/Human Devt.	\$ 25.00	Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00

General Fund Income, Actual (to date) : \$ 85,479.42
General Fund Income, Budgeted (to date) : \$ 79,856.00
Difference of YTD Actual against Budgeted (+/-) : \$ 5,623.42
Note: Avg. \$3,472/week needed for FY24 budgeted income.



IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS: Shaina Adelman†, Stacy Bauer†, Sammie Bland†, Rachel Brickey†, Fr. Jon Dillon, Elaine Emery, Patricia Fritz†, Jackie Loutsch†, Peter Lux, Victor May†, Sr. Irene McDonnell, John Murphy, Michael Murray†, Heather Plaisted†, Jimmie Schneller, Sr. Andrea Turbak, Terry & Bill† Wakeland, Janet & Mary Woytassek & all residents of MH's facilities in Custer.



FEEDING S.D. is distributing food/produce in Custer at the **Custer Lutheran Fellowship parking lot, 12622 HWY 16A, on every month's second Tues., 1-2P.** Next scheduled distributions for 2023: **December 12.** Contact Feeding S.D. (605/348-2689) for more info.

Remember to use your **Reverse Advent Calendar** for the Holiday Food Drive to supply the Custer Food Pantry.



Thank you for your generosity in the collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious.**

Monthly Devotion (Dec)
Immaculate Conception



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

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

STEWARDSHIP SPOT: John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

"Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible...." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB*

Victims Of Earthquakes And Abortions

It is heartening to see so many countries and people worldwide opening their hearts and their pocketbooks to help the victims of terrible earthquakes. It shows that when a disaster strikes, we can come together to help our fellow man with love and compassion. It shows that some of us believe in the preciousness of life.

We even show compassion for beached whales and porpoises and are incensed about how animals are slaughtered by various means.

What I don't understand is our lack of compassion toward our own unborn babies! Millions have been killed by abortion. If the people who lost their lives in earthquakes had time to pray before they died, I believe it would have been to beg God for help - to let them live. If the babies in the womb could pray, they too would say "Let me live." But no, we turn a deaf ear to their cries and they are the most vulnerable of us all.

Abortion is the murder of innocent persons whatever the reason behind it. It is genocide of a terrible magnitude. It is an act of violence, an atrocity and has no place in civilized society. It seems even nature cannot stand the stench of the sin of abortion.

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. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!



"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration." Mother Teresa

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 until December 17th. 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

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!

Liturgical Minister Schedule

WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/LITURGICAL-MINISTER-SCHEDULE

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 or 605/343-3541) for more info on any FLM-sponsored event or visit 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 for info on Courage. Contact 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.

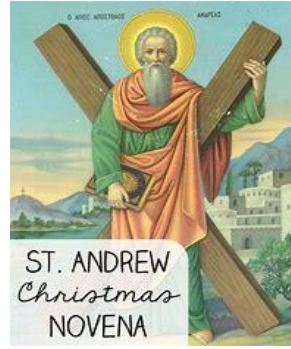
The Parish Lending Library is available during Office Hours, Tues-Thurs 9-12. Please sign out any books you borrow on the Check-Out Sheet inside the door.

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