

**THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**449 HARNEY ST** **147 N 5TH ST ~ PO BOX 632**  
**CUSTER, S.D.** **[WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG](http://WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG)**

**Parish Pastoral Staff**

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

Deacon: **Dn. Pat Coy** 605/209-4636  
 605/574-2605 [LOFTLANDRANCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](mailto:STJOHNS@GWTC.NET) (office)

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

**GIVE ELECTRONICALLY!** Visit [WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/GIVE](http://WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/GIVE) (online) or [WWW.CUSTERCATHOLIC.ORG/GIVE-APP](http://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 \$ 643.46 over 24 weeks so far in FY24**. Interested? Contact Brenda at the parish church office.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** **through December 17, 2023**

General Collection	\$ 7,767.69	Anawim Fund	\$ 120.00
- via e-giving	\$ 310.69	Major Capital Fund	\$ 10.00
Adopt-A-Seminarist	\$ 50.00	Votive Candles	\$ 0.00

<u>Special Collections:</u>	Gathering Area	\$ 25.00	
Ret. Fund/Religious	\$ 10.00	Christmas Offering	\$ 150.00

<b>General Fund Income, Actual (to date)</b>	<b>: \$ 97,599.96</b>
<b>General Fund Income, Budgeted (to date)</b>	<b>: \$ 86,800.00</b>
<b>Difference of YtD Actual against Budgeted (+/-)</b>	<b>: \$ 10,799.96</b>

Note: Avg. \$3,472/week needed for FY24 budgeted income.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS**

Visit the National [WWW.EUCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.EUCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG) site today!

**Christmas Time** (Fr. Igwilo in Hot Springs)

**12/25 Mon.** 8:00A \* Christmas Day Mass (Int.:)

**12/26 Tues.** 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & Morning Prayer [OR & MP]

**12/27 Wed.** 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

**12/28 Thurs.** 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

**12/29 Fri.** 7:00A LHs: Office of Readings & MP

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

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

5:30P Sun. Vigil Mass  
 (Int.: Stacey Bauer †)

**12/31 Sun.** 8:00A Sun. Mass  
 (Int.: Bill Wakeland †)

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

5:00P Solemn Vespers  
 5:30P New Year's Eve Mass  
 (Int.: Ron Oney †)

**1/ 1 Mon.** 8:00A New Year's Day Mass  
 (Int.: Gary Sharkey)

Note: \* indicates that incense will be burned.

**Monthly Devotion (Dec) Immaculate Conception**

**Monthly Devotion (Jan.) Holy Name of Jesus**

*Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!*



**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.

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

**Attention Adorers! Come one, come all...**

make room for Jesus at the Inn of your Heart on **Friday, January 12**. 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 our hearts.

**Mary, Mother of God**

It is through the virginal Motherhood of Mary that the Word was made flesh. In adoring the Son of God made man in the Child of Bethlehem, we recognize that Mary is the Mother of God.



**STEWARDSHIP SPOT:** In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's yes~ "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say."~ that the promise finds fulfillment.

Christmas!! The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my Life?

"Protecting life is our duty as Catholics, and ending legal protection for abortion is imperative."

Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila

### Abortion In Young Women and Subsequent Mental Health

Most debates on abortion have centered around ethical, religious and other issues concerning the rights of the unborn child in circumstances of an "unplanned pregnancy."

However, a recent study in New Zealand focused on the mental health of young women following an abortion.

The study concluded, "Those having an abortion have elevated rates of subsequent mental health problems including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors and substance use disorders" (*Journal of Child Psychology & Psychiatry*).

Advocates of abortion do not like (and invariably ignore) empirical evidence like this. It is not consistent with their rhetoric which often trivializes the expectant mother's life and death decision.

Once again, science supports the pro-life position, including the fact that abortion harms women. The serious mental health implications of abortion is biological fact---not religious dogma!

By Pro-Life Articles



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me under the form of nourishment. Your Blood now runs in mine, Your Soul, Incarnate God, compenetrates mine, giving courage and support. What miracles! Who would have ever imagined such!" St. Maximilian Kolbe

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.**

**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

**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.



**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 2024: **January 9.** Contact Feeding S.D. (605/348-2689) for more info.

**Storehouse donations** (568 lbs. for the year) Thank you all.

Remember to use your **Reverse Advent Calendar** for the Holiday Food Drive to supply the Custer Food Pantry. 113.5 #s donated

**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 January 2024**

### **For the Gift of Diversity in the Church: We**

pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

### **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.



In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, Mother of God, where we honor Mary's highest title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist.