
 Christ the King, *Webster* & Immaculate Conception, *Waubay*

Pastor: Fr. Melvin Kuhn Email frmelvinkuhn@sfcatholic.org Phone 345-3447 **Deacon: Mike Wambach**

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Websites: Christ the King: ctkwebster.org

Immaculate Conception: icwaubay.org

- Confession Times: Webster–Tue 12:00—12:45 pm & Sat 3:30—4:20pm
Waubay–Wed 11:45 am—12:30 pm & Sun 8:00—8:20am
- Baptisms are scheduled after pre-baptism requirements are fulfilled. Call for an appointment.
- Marriage Preparation: Contact pastor at least six months prior to desired wedding date.
- If you are new to our parish and would like to join please contact the office for a registration form.
- If you would like to reserve the parish hall at *either* parish, please contact the parish office.

Pastor's Column

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when Jesus was baptized by St. John Baptist. One thing we should note about the “baptism” of John is that it was not the *sacrament* of Baptism. All of the sacraments flow from our Lord’s Passion, which of course had not yet occurred. Or, we could simply say that our Lord had not yet created the sacrament of Baptism so John’s baptism couldn’t have possibly been the *sacrament* of baptism. Since John’s baptism was not the sacrament of baptism, it did not remit either original or personal sin; nor did it restore sanctifying grace. Now even if John’s baptism had been the sacrament of baptism, our Lord certainly didn’t need it since He was always without sin, including original sin; if He was corrupted by either original or personal sin, then He couldn’t be the Savior because He Himself would need a Savior.

So we come to the question, then, of why did our Lord go to the Baptism of John? First, we have to ask: what was John’s baptism if it wasn’t the sacrament of baptism? What was it and why was it done? There were several reasons, as related by St Thomas Aquinas. One was that it was a prelude or prefigurement of the sacrament of baptism; John the Baptist himself said as much when he said that he baptizes with water but there is one coming after him who will baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit. But John’s baptism was not just a prefigurement of the sacrament, it was also a sign of repentance. John was sent to “prepare the way” for the Lord and to do that he preached repentance: call to mind (or acknowledge) your sins, be sorry for them, and be committed to turning away from them; if you are (John might say), come forward and be immersed in the water as a sign of your desire to be cleansed, freed, and receive new life. It is a concrete, tangible step – sealing the commitment, if you will.

Now we come back to the question of why our Lord came to be baptized by John. We want to remember that everything Jesus does, He does for our good – He is teaching us (by word or example) and/or winning for us the gift of grace. The Church Fathers first note that by coming to John’s baptism, our Lord is first showing approval of John and the preparation he has done. So our Lord shows that He in fact sent John to prepare the way and He approves of what John has done. Our Lord wants to say to us: if you wish to receive Me, hear the message of the Baptist, there is no other way. Notice also that the people who responded to John manifested the virtue of humility; they acknowledge their sinfulness, their need (and desire) for a Savior, they are bowed low to the ground, so to speak, and come into the water. And what does the Savior do? We might say He does two things. One is that He approves of their humility by manifesting an even greater humility: the Creator comes to the creature, the Lord to the servant, the absolutely sinless to the baptism of sinners. He not only comes, though, but He goes so far as to receive the baptism (immersion) of the sinner; He comes to be immersed with them. But the repentant sinner does not just want company – he wants to be relieved from the burden of sin and corruption that weighs him down, that makes him hopeless, that has him chasing after this, that, and the other. The repentant sinner doesn’t just want company – he wants a Savior. The Savior comes but He does not just stand at a distance and wave an approving hand, He immerses Himself in very water that “contains” their innumerable sins, He immerses Himself not to cover up their sins but to obliterate them, to wipe them out and thus purify the poor sinner. The sign is now complete. The dawn from on high has broken upon us. Thanks be to God!

Not everyone accepted the message and baptism of John the Baptist though; the Pharisees, for example, stood at a distance and came only to interrogate him. If we had been alive at the time of St John Baptist, would we have gone to his baptism? We don’t need to wonder, our Lord calls us to do the same today. Where does He find us standing now?

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Mon. Jan 14,(CTK) 5:30 pm Personal Intention
Tue. Jan 15,(CTK) 5:00 pm +Dennis Dargatz
Wed. Jan 16, 11:00 am (IC) Mass for the sick
Thurs. Jan 17, 10:00 am (Bethesda) +Angie Boik
Fri. Jan 18, 8:00 am (CTK) +Marge Opitz
Sat. Jan 19, 5:00 pm (CTK) +Hattie Meier
Sun. Jan 20, 8:30 am (IC) People of the Parishes
Sun. Jan 20, 10:30 am (CTK) Right to Life

Eucharistic Adoration following Friday Mass

Sunday Offering: CTK \$2176 IC \$695

Welcome: Immaculate Conception Parish would like to welcome our new member Cora Zirbel who received the Sacrament of Baptism. Pray that she will grow in faith with the help of her parents Jevon and Jennifer Zirbel.

Mass canceled when there's a funeral. In the past I've had the weekday Mass, if possible, even when there's a funeral that day. But most people don't come and it seems to create a lot of confusion as to whether or not there is Mass. So from now on, if there is a funeral, the weekday Mass for that day is canceled. God bless you, Fr Kuhn.

Wallet Found: A yellow wallet was left in the Church last weekend. Please contact the parish office to reclaim it.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: The Webster/Waubay KC's will be sponsoring a free throw contest open to all boys and girls ages 9-14. (Age as of Jan. 1). It will be held on Sunday, Jan. 20th at 1:00pm at the Webster Armory. Please contact Craig Case (345-3096) if you have any questions.

The Catholic Daughter meeting will be held January 14th at the Heritage Village Chapel at 7:00pm. Program chair is Lileth Fromelt. Program is a video message by state Chaplain Fr. Homic. Hostesses are Jodi Schlotte, Marsia Butler and Karmen Case.

Christ the King Altar Society: Welcome to a new year of service for our parish community. 2019 Officers are: President – Margaret Kwasniewski, Vice President – Rita Mork, Secretary – Robin Dorsett and Treasurer – Valerie Wyffels. Group 1 – Kathy Meland and Shawn Lesnar, Group 2 – Melissa (Peanut) Bent and Mary Hempel, Group 3 – Cindy Zenk and Karlene Gollnick, Group 4 – Charlotte Hoverstadt and Lana Gollnick. The Altar Society Officer and Promoters meet monthly to discuss current business, make decisions and assist with parish events. Annual dues of \$10 are now due. They can be paid to your promoter or place in the collection marked CKAS dues.

Dues help supply paper products, coffee, and other necessities for the parish community activities. Minutes of the monthly meeting are posted on the website.

46th Annual South Dakota Right to Life Walk in Pierre is scheduled for Sunday Jan 20th and starts at 12:30pm with a walk around the Capitol area, followed by refreshments and snacks in the Capitol 1:30-2:00 pm, and an Hour of Reflection in the Capitol rotunda (2:00 pm to 3:00 pm). Keynote speaker this year: Governor Kristi Noem. There will be a bus leaving Aberdeen at 8:15am if you are interested contact Sara Colombe at 320-630-7844 or email Sara.Colombe@k12.sd.us .

Counseling from CFS available in Webster. Justin Falon is a licensed counselor who works full time for Catholic Family Services. He is qualified to work with people on a wide range of problems or counseling needs, including addiction. Justin is willing to come to Webster to meet with anyone who would like his services. He can be reached by phone at: 605-988-3775 and by email at jfalon@sfcatholic.org.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS JAN 19TH –JAN 20TH CHRIST THE KING (Webster)

SATURDAY 5:00pm

SERVERS...Breanna Wegleitner, Brayden & Mason Aadland
LECTOR ...Mary Hempel
E.M. ...*Mary Hempel, *Chris Keller, LaRome Kwasniewski
USHERS... Mike & Karleen Gollnick
Paula Steiner, Susan Gaikowski

SUNDAY 10:30am

SERVERS...Carrington Hanson, Drew Reetz, Coby Reetz
LECTOR ...Kelly Hanson
E.M... *Cindy Zenk, *Fred Zenk, Darcy Pulvemacher
USHERS ... Todd Block Family

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Waubay)

SUNDAY 8:30am

SERVERS... Trip Gaikowski, Seth Gaikowski, Caleb Miller
LECTOR ...Jenn Zirbel
E.M...Ferdy Zirbel, Candace Zirbel, Tom Lewno
USHERS ...Justin Gaikowski Family