

Church of Saint Therese The Little Flower

532 Adams Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

(605) 342-1556

sttherese@diorc.org
sainttheresechurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Prendiville
Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Francis Nsubuga
Deacons: Charles Rausch & Don Moore

Our parish, dedicated as St. John the Evangelist on November 27, 1941, is presently known as Saint Therese the Little Flower. We have and will continue to proclaim and celebrate the gospel message by building community and serving in the name of Jesus Christ. We celebrate our gifts: a strong loyal parish community and our Catholic bond of faith dedicated to service and love of the Church.

Our Stewardship Mission is to love God first and commit ourselves to be the heart, hands and feet of Christ in our community.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 3:00 pm

(We're PROBABLY there earlier/later or through lunch hour, so call daily for additional hours!)

YOUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

PASTOR~Fr. Kerry Prendiville, 605-591-9991

Assoc. Pastor ~ Fr. Francis Nsubuga, 605-786-2252

CHAIRPERSON ~ Ralph Dupres	381-6027
VICE CHAIRPERSON ~ Fred Solano	381-7783
Council Secretary ~ Irene Lee	431-0358
Buildings & Grounds ~ Chad Carroll	341-4532
Faith Formation ~ Will Winch	920-222-5937
Stewardship ~ Sarah McGill	769-5016
Council Member ~ Matt Schmahl	348-0427

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

Altar Society ~ Doris Ann Werlinger	348-6311
Knights of Columbus ~ Jim Blackwell	923-2955

Your Parish Council meets on the LAST Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. You are WELCOME to attend or contact any member. If you have new business, contact a council member prior to meeting.

WELCOME TO ST. THERESE!!

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

5:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Schedule

Saturday 3 to 4 pm

5:30 pm

Sunday 8 am & 4:30 pm

Or by appointment!

YOUR PARISH STAFF

PASTOR ~ Father Kerry Prendiville, 342-1556 ext. 4 ASSOC. PASTOR ~ Father Francis Nsubuga, 342-1556
Deacon Charles Rausch, ext. 3 & Deacon Don Moore, ext 3 OFFICE STAFF: ~ Connie Heeren, ext. 1
~ Karen Thorp, ext. 2 YOUTH FORMATION COORDINATOR~ Bobby Myers, ext. 5
JANITORIAL & MAINTENANCE CUSTODIAN ~ Don Moore, ext. 3 FACILITY JANITOR ~ Elaine Duncan

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Homebound Ministry: Jerry Kanta, Kathy Grebner, Rick Edelen, Rita & Ralph Dupres, Jeff & Martha Cook
Liturgy/Music: Sue Englin, Jeanne Schneider & Joleen Click 1st Communion & Confirmation: Bobby Myers
RCIA: Anthony Flores BAPTISM: Call the office: Deacon Chuck Rausch
Altar Society President: Doris Ann Werlinger Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight, Jerry Kanta

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17 & 18, 2022

Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18

Welcome Fr. Pike Thomas from Unbound

Sunday, September 18

9 am Mass (also streamed on Facebook Pg.)

10:15 am PreK-5th grade Religious

Education TEACHER MEET N GREET

10:30 am Fall Festival Planning meeting

5:30 pm Mass

7 pm FAMILY ROSARY – All welcome!

Monday, September 19

7:30 am Mass

7 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, September 20

7:30 am Mass

Wednesday, September 21

7:30 am Mass

1:15 pm Mass at Good Samaritan

6:30 pm Bible In A Year

Thursday, September 22

7:30 am Mass

Friday, September 23

7:30 am Mass

8 to 9 am Eucharistic Adoration *followed*

by Benediction & Morning Prayer

1 pm Robert Kirkland funeral

3 pm ADVANCE dinner ticket sales end

DOWN THE ROAD

Saturday, September 24

9 am Fall Festival Set Up – Can bring

in your Silent Auction baskets, baked

goods, gift boutique items, etc. (Not

salads/pies/desserts. Sun. am only)

Sunday, September 25

10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Annual FALL FESTIVAL

8 am Can bring your LARGE salad

AND pie/dessert in.

Get your dinner tickets!

Sign up to volunteer!

Welcome to St. Therese!

We are truly happy you joined us in the Celebration of the Mass!

Please note: If you would like to reschedule your Mass, please contact the office at 342-1556 during the week.

MASS INTENTIONS ~ September 19 - 25

Intentions indicated by "+" are deceased; no notations are for living

MONDAY	7:30 am	Joanne McCormick +
TUESDAY	7:30 am	Agnes Kurtenbach + & Family
WEDNESDAY	7:30 am	The French Family
THURSDAY	7:30 am	Luis David Juarez Gomez +
FRIDAY	7:30 am	Anne Siedlecki Family
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
SATURDAY	4:30 pm	Angie Zacher +
SUNDAY	9 am	Jerry Kocher +
	5:30 pm	Parishioners

MASS INTENTIONS: Other than at St. Therese

One day on trip Leona Best

By Fr. Kerry Prendiville in Greece

Sun., Sept. 18 Deceased Members of the O'Dowd Family +

By Fr. Kerry Prendiville in Greece

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

FAMILY ROSARY: EVERY SUNDAY AT 7PM

Our Daily Scriptures

Monday	Prv 3:27-34	Ps 15:2-4b,5	Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday	Prv 21:1-6,10-13	Ps 119:1,27,30,34-35,44	Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	Eph 4:1-7,11-13	Ps 19:2-5	Mt 9:9-13
Thursday	Eccl 1:2-11	Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17bc	Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Eccl 3:1-11	Ps 144:1b,2abc,3-4	Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	Eccl 11:9-12:8	Ps 90:3-6,12-14,17	Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday	Am 6:1a,4-7	Ps 146:7-10	1 Tm 6:11-16 Lk 16:19-31

Parish website:

www.sainttheresechurch.org

You will find the weekly bulletin, Liturgical schedule, upcoming events, the "button" to e-giving and more!

ALSO FIND US (ST. THERESE CHURCH) ON FACEBOOK!!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleFlowerRapidCity/>

Liturgical Ministry Schedule – September 24 & 25

SAT. 4:30 pm E.M.: Marcia Zacher (S) Renee Coldwell, Deacon

Lector: Jeff Cook, Irene Lee

Ushers: Diane Ange, Mac Coldwell, Roxie Quintus, Sarah Crook

Altar Server: Mercedes Solano

SUN. 9 am E.M.: Del & Joann Solano (S) Deacon

Lector: Dave Dolan, Judee Popken

Ushers: Pat Millar, Tom & Melanie Parsons, Al Solano

Altar Server: Teegan Grosz

SUN. 5:30 pm E.M.: Chris VanCleave (S), Amanda Williamson, Trish Peterson

Lector: Anthony Flores, Pat McDowell

Ushers: Larry Cole, Bob Ormasher, Will Winch, 1 NEEDED

Altar Servers: Toni Weber

Remember, if you cannot serve, please find a substitute.

PLEASE CALL Gayle Martin at 718-4631

regarding the schedule.

The dishonest manager in today's parable knew how to manipulate money to his own advantage. But the Gospel warns that no one can serve both God and money. Which do I serve? Is my stewardship such that anyone can tell?

GENERAL & OTHER FUNDS: Contributions this week

Envelopes	\$ 4565.00
Plate Collections	\$ 1366.18
Building Improvement Fund	\$ 267.00
Priest Retirement Fund	\$ 164.00
Seminarian Fund	\$ 120.00
Electronic Tithing	\$ 3192.00
Building Fund-egiving	\$ 119.00
Catholic Schools-egiving	\$ 3.00
Heating/Cooling Fund-egiving	\$ 50.00
Families in Need-egiving	\$ 210.00
Priest Retirement Fund-egiving	\$ 161.00
Seminarian Fund-egiving	\$ 104.00
Votive Candle Income	\$ 59.00
TOTAL	\$10,380.18

WEEKLY AMOUNT NEEDED: \$11,478

"THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Camp. For Hum. Dev.	\$ 7.00
Catholic University	\$ 199.00
Catholic University-egiving	\$ 50.00
Camp. For Hum. Devl.-egiving	\$ 3.00

Sept. 18: General Fund

Sept. 25: General Fund

SEPT: Priest Retirement Aid Assoc., Building Improvements, Seminarian Fund

Only ONE more week!

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 25th!!

10:30 am to 1:30 pm!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SALAD & DESSERT!!

How can you help? SET UP is Saturday, September 24th at 9 am. You may bring all your home-made crafts, goodies and silent auction baskets at this time. **We ask each family to bring a LARGE salad AND a pie/dessert for the dinner!** Those may be dropped off beginning Sunday at 8:30 am! Don't forget clean up! The FALL FESTIVAL is our big event that requires **everyone** to help, in their own little way, to do their part. **SIGN UP ON THE SHEETS on the BULLETIN BOARD in the Parish Center! THANK YOU!! We look forward to another successful year!**

Bulletin Prayer List:

Bob Bachmeier, Mark Biggs, Brent & Joyce Braun, Michele Carlin, Erin Dietrich, Sheryl Feller, Lois Fisher, Newborn Fox, Tom Haney, Kelly Heintz, Audrey Hilton, Marietta Hollinger, Jessica, Leslie, Linda, Cheryl Feist Merritt, N.T., Mark P., Peggy Pientok, Marcia Potts, Andrea Sabow, Floyd Sperlich, Jeff Thorstenson, Jim Tynen,

Thank you for the continued prayers for Dorothy Griffee, Jessica, Leslie, Lynn Loomer, Trish Peterson & Karla Winland

Have you signed up for your 1 hr. slot to volunteer at the Fall Festival? If not, we have slots available!! Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Center! ☺

DID YOU ATTEND?? The Stewardship Committee thanks ALL who attended the 'Spirit Alive' Ministry Fair and all those that signed up to get involved. . . and to all those that signed up for the Gift Card Drawing. Thank you! However, the list of winners cannot be located so y'all have another chance at the drawing. Please call the office at 605-342-1556 or email kthorp@diorc.org by 9am Monday, September 19 and The Stewardship Committee will draw names again.



Knight and Family of the Month

The Knight of the Month and Family of the Month are selected by the members in recognition of their outstanding service to the Council, Church, and Community. These awards are our way of saying "thank you for your efforts and to let you know your service is greatly appreciated."

The Knight of the Month for September:

Fred Solano

The Family of the Month for September:

Mac and Renee Coldwell

A LITTLE LAUGH ...

Fr. Kerry called the staff and said, "I should have known that mornings would be difficult in Greece."
"Why?" Bobby asked. "Because everyone knows Dawn is tough on grease."

[ba da da cymbal crash] ☺

LET US FILL OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

"I have called you by name, and you are mine!"

RCIA will begin September 19th.

For more info. or to sign up for RCIA, contact Anthony Flores at 605-484-3190 or the parish office at 342-1556.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Grades PreK - 5th: SUNDAYS- 10:15 - 11:30 am

- Sept. 18 MEET THE TEACHER DAY
- Sept. 15 NO CLASS ~ Fall Festival
- Oct. 2 CLASS
- Oct. 9 NO CLASS ~ Native American Day

CONFIRMATION: ~ 7th Grade +: WEDNESDAYS: 6 - 8 pm

- Sept. 28 CHOSEN & PARENT'S MEETING
- Oct. 5 CHOSEN
- Sunday, October 9 YOUTH RALLY at Terra Sancta
- Oct. 12 CHOSEN

Life Teen (High School) & Edge (Middle School):

WEDNESDAYS- 6 - 8 pm (Grades 6-12)

- Sept. 28 LIFENIGHT PARENT'S MEETING
- Oct. 5 1ST LifeNight
- Sunday, October 9 YOUTH RALLY at Terra Sancta
- Oct. 12, 19 LifeNight

We cannot serve two masters.

Which one are you willing to follow?

(Luke 16:1-13) **PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!**

Adult Education Opportunities:

NOTE: EVENING CLASS ADDED! Now 2 time choices!

THE BIBLE TIMELINE, The Story of Salvation Thursday afternoons 1-3 pm. OR evenings from 6 - 8 pm, Oct. 6 - April 6.

Jeff Cavin's 24 session Bible study and video presentation uses fourteen of the Bible's narrative books and a unique color-coded chart to learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and reveal the remarkable story of our faith. Study workbooks (desert cover) are available for on-line purchase at Ascension Press (includes 1-year on-line access), but the previous gold covered edition (printed in B&W) may also be used. Questions? Call 605-716-4479 and be sure to leave a message.

BIBLE IN A YEAR BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays ~ 6:30 pm

For more info., call Melanie at 605-430-0459

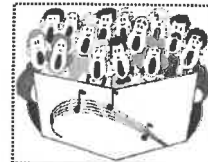


The Knights are dedicated to our faith by living and sharing it in daily life. We encourage all Catholic men to join the Knights as a way to deepen their faith, defend the family, and work for a brighter future for all people. **Free online membership has been extended temporarily.** Just go to www.kofc.org/joinus and enter the online code **BlessedMcGivney**. (Code is one word and not case sensitive.)

Share your gift of song!!

Join the 4:30 pm Saturday Mass Choir

Everyone welcome to join! Practice starts again Mondays at 7 pm starting September 12th!
Call Sue Englin with questions. 605-343-8455.



Watch the St. Therese 9 am

Sunday Mass on the Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleFlowerRapidCity/>

Live-streamed every Sunday at 9 am, but then recorded so you can watch at a later time.

HELPING HANDS

St. Therese parishioners are so amazing and generous! Truly showing your "Little way".

We are TAKING DONATIONS for:

HOPE CENTER: BUS PASSES, & individual snack items

CHURCH RESPONSE: Non-perishable food items & personal hygiene items: This month: PORK & BEANS, PASTA & RICE A'RONIS, CANNED VEGGIES & SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER

BIRTHRIGHT PREGNANCY SUPPORT: Newborn-6 mo. BABY-CARE PRODUCTS, CLOTHING, DIAPERS, & MATERNITY WEAR

The boxes for ALL organizations are located in the Parish Center. We will get them to the appropriate places.

Funeral Chairpersons ~ SEPTEMBER

Rosemary Lang & Jo Krause

Next month: Deanna Johnson & Ellen McGuigan

Returning Catholics ~ Monday, Oct. 3rd

If you have been considering re-engaging with your Catholic faith, you may want to explore the Returning Catholics Program. Even though participation in the Returning Catholics Program is not a prerequisite to returning to Sunday Mass, scores of returning Catholics have found this six-week program beneficial in their faith journey. The next six-week Returning Catholics Program will be offered on **Monday evenings at Our Lady of the Black Hills, I-90 exit 48, in Piedmont, from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** For more information call **605-939-0579**.

ANOTHER LITTLE LAUGH ...

Connie said, "I HAVE to eat cake because it's somebody's birthday somewhere."

Mother/Daughter Brunch Invitation Sunday, October 16th at Terra Sancta

9 AM MASS, 10:30 AM BRUNCH

Sponsored by St. Rita #916, Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Adults: \$15 ~ Children 4-10 years: \$10 ~ 3 and under: free

RSVP by October 5th at www.terrasancta.org/CDA or call

Roxanne, 605-721-7474. *Entertainment and door*

prizes provided. Please observe RSVP DEADLINE OF OCT.

5TH. No reservations at the door. Thank you.

The Cursillo Weekend

A three-day personal encounter with Christ helping you grow in your Catholic faith. **Women's Weekend Oct. 27-30** at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City; **Men's Weekend, Nov. 10-13** at Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City. For information contact Kathy Ackerman 406-939-2686 or 605-574-9571, email dchealthycomm@yahoo.com.

Are you or someone you know struggling after a Separation or Divorce?

The heartbreak of divorce affects the entire family, often leading to feelings of isolation. Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Participants find their questions answered, hope restored and authentic healing begun. Surviving Divorce is a 10-week support group which is rooted in Catholic and Christian teaching and is open to any Christian adult who is hurting following a separation or divorce. Fall sessions begin September 12 at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. A \$30 registration fee covers all materials. Scholarship help is available for those in financial need. To register: www.terrasanta.org/survive2022 For more info., contact Linda Drake or Amy Julian at 605-343-3541 or email FamilyLife@diorc.org or visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org/FLM.

Celebrate Priesthood Sunday September 25th

Priesthood Sunday is a day set aside to honor priesthood and to raise awareness of vocations to the priesthood. This is a time, like Father's Day, that we can make our priests feel special and appreciated. Let your pastor know how much you appreciate his time and energy in his ministry for your parish with a card, a phone call, a meal at your house or with a gift card to a restaurant! Don't forget about retired priests and past priests of your parish. *This nationwide event is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International. It is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International and the Serra International Foundation. For more ideas on how to celebrate Priesthood Sunday in your parish, please visit the Serra Club's website: serraus.org/priesthood-Sunday/.*

Mental Health First Aid learn to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Also provides the skills to reach out and aid with initial help and support. Catholic Social Service is offering the following classes. Check with CSS regarding in-person and zoom classes. **Adults Helping Adults** 8 am – 5 pm: Wednesdays, Sept 21; Oct 19; Nov 23; and Dec 21. **Adults Helping Youth** 8am -5 pm; Wednesdays, Sept 28; Oct 26; and Nov 30. Contact: 605-348-6086; css@cssrapidcity.com



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel we see that prudent decisiveness means that we recognize that all our choices in daily living are really choices for eternal life. Admission into heaven is something money cannot buy. The only currency that has any value to secure our entrance is that of love. **As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering.** Contact Rita Dupres at 605-381-4988 for more info. on our local SVDP Society.

"Heal Your Grief" Bereavement Support Group

When a loved one dies, we are wounded. Just as a wound does, we need to heal from within, to express our thoughts and feelings. A support group is a safe place where you can talk, cry, and share your anger, guilt and fears with those who care and understand. Rooted in Catholic teaching, Heal Your Grief is an eight-week support group open to all Christian adults who have lost a loved one due to death. For more information contact George Wallace at 605-721-3811 or Dee Pickarts at 605-343-2038. Sponsored by Family Life Ministries. For more questions call Amy Julian 605-343-3541, email FamilyLife@diorc.org or visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org/FLM

Life Chain Sunday, October 2nd, Rapid City Right to Life is planning a Life Chain on Mt. Rushmore Road from 2-3 p.m. from Omaha Street uphill to the corner near the Cathedral. Organizers are hoping churches can sign up to cover specific blocks. *Line-up will be at the SDRTL parking lot, 1107 Mt. Rushmore Rd. Water Stations will be at the RTL office and at Wilson Park. Signs will be provided. Any outside signs will need prior approval from the organizers. Individuals or churches can contact Martha or Teresa at rc_rtl@yahoo.com. Phone: 605-220-8678.*

Diocese of Rapid City Accountant Job Opening

Full-time Accountant / Accountant II to include Parish Accounts. To perform accounting activities for assigned entities and parishes. For a full job description go to <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org> and select the "We Are Hiring!" icon. High School Diploma, training and/or experience in the accounting field, demonstrated high degree of accuracy, detail oriented person. Interested individuals should submit a cover letter along with a **completed application form** to chernandez@diorc.org or Sr. Christine Hernandez, SCTJM, Diocese of Rapid City, 225 Main St., Suite 100, Rapid City, SD 57701. The Diocese of Rapid City offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

The Rapid City Catholic School System is

NOW HIRING

Kitchen Staff

Afterschool Childcare

Paraprofessionals

Substitute Teachers



call Molly at 605-348-1477 or visit rccss.org - district - employment opportunities

IMMEDIATE HELP WANTED! Full & part-time Event Services Team~ Terra Sancta Retreat Center Serving food, cleaning & setting up meeting rooms, cleaning lodging rooms, interacting with guests and more! This is more than a job, it's a ministry that we love! Competitive wage, opportunities for advancement, Flexible Hours! Apply on-line www.terrasancta.org/employment or call 605.716.0925 or stay@terrasancta.org

ONE MORE LITTLE LAUGH ...

Connie said, "I wish I had this cow's peace of mind. I already have its body."



Full-time Parish Bookkeeper ~ Cathedral OLPH
Contact Beth Strain at the rectory office at 605-342-0507

St. Martin Monastery seeking a part-time nursing assistant. Our nurse assistants provide loving, around-the-clock care for the Sisters in the health care unit, including personal care, bathing, transfer assistance, serving meals, doing laundry and light cleaning. Experience preferred, but we will provide training and certification if needed. We offer competitive pay and the opportunity to work in a peaceful, pleasant environment. For more information or to fill out an application, please contact Shawna or Karen at 605-343-8011.

Healing After Abortion The pain of abortion can manifest itself years and even decades after the event. When abortion hits the headlines, this pain can emerge suddenly and dramatically, or it can eat away from the inside out. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats are healing retreats for women and men who struggle with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. The retreats provide a safe and loving environment for participants of all faiths to experience God's mercy and compassion, while transforming pain from the past into love and hope for the future. The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat is September 30-October 2. For more information, contact Carol Kling at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sddplains.com. For additional information visit their website at www.rachelsvineyard.org, www.rapidcitydiocese.org/rv.

World Youth Day 2023: Lisbon, Portugal

We invite all youth, 16-30, to join us for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal! July 30-August 10, 2023. Our Pilgrimage will not only lead us into the heart of the Church for World Youth Day, August 1-6, but will also lead us into the Heart of Our Lady in the Shrine of Fatima. The estimated pilgrimage cost, to be finalized, is around \$2800. Fundraising ideas and opportunities are available! **Please fill out the initial registration on our website, accompanied by your \$100 refundable deposit, to secure your spot and let us know that you are interested in this pilgrimage!** To learn more www.RapidCityDiocese.org/wy23

Part-time in-home TUTOR ~ RC Catholic family two girls, ages 9 & 12. Preferred times are 9:30 am – 3:30 pm two days per week. Contact Camille Pauley at camilleonline@comcast.net. See full job posting at <https://www.catholicjobs.com/job/8200154254>

Cor ad Cor Retreat Registration Open a weekly small group gathering of all men or all women to learn more about the spiritual life, to grow in relationship and conversation with the Lord, and to share faith and the work of the Lord with others. The retreat begins with the Oremus program from Ascension Press (8 weeks) and then moves into the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola according to the 19th annotation (additional 22 weeks). Small groups of about six people meet weekly with a trained leader for these 30 weeks. Small groups gather each week to learn and talk about the life of prayer and what the Lord is doing in them. Each small group contains only 8 retreatants. Register soon as groups fill up quickly! Groups begin to meet at various days, times, and locations starting the week of October 2. To learn more visit: www.RapidCityDiocese.org/CoradCor

Middle School & High School Youth Rally

Registration is now open for our 2022 Middle School and High School Youth Rally at Terra Sancta Retreat Center on October 9. Keynote speakers are **Paul J Kim** and **Kelly Colangelo**. Join us for this day-long rally as we encounter Heaven and Earth in the Eucharist and have an amazing day of fun, food, and fellowship with other youth throughout our diocese. Retreat begins at 9am and ends with Mass at 3pm with Bishop Peter. Visit our website to learn more about them and register for this event! www.RapidCityDiocese.org

EXAMEN: A Going Deeper Retreat for High School students: Sept. 23-25 This retreat is a GO DEEPER retreat offered by the Diocese of Rapid City geared towards high school youth that are desiring to grow deeper in their faith. This is for youth who are actively engaged in their faith. This is not a first retreat experience. Through the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the spiritual exercises, and the Examen prayer, the participants will gain a deeper understanding of basic discernment in prayer and a way of examining their spiritual life daily. Begins Friday at 5pm and ends at 3pm on Sunday. Retreat hosted at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City SD. To learn more: www.RapidCityDiocese.org/godeeperretreat

Come and See –Catholic Youth Explorer Movement– Sept 27 You're invited to learn more about this outdoor Catholic youth movement: Federation of North American Explorers(FNE)! FNE is open to boys and girls ages 6-24. We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Cathedral hall from 6:30-8pm. Our FNE group offers a faith-based traditional character formation program designed for boys or girls to enjoy the outdoors by creating and playing their own Exploring Adventures! **Bring your child on September 27th at 6:30pm to the Cathedral Hall and learn more about this exciting outdoor youth movement!** Contact Jacques at jdaniel@diorc.org or visit www.RCFNE.com for any questions.

51st Annual SD Right to Life Convention~ Sept. 30-Oct 1 First Assembly of God Church, 4905 Mt. Rushmore Rd., Rapid City. **Friday, doors open at 6 pm for registrations, refreshments & exhibits; 7 pm Keynote speaker & legislative candidates. Saturday, doors open at 8 am, 9 am speakers begin. Speakers include Karen Cross National RTL Committee; Angela Copenhaver, WeTeachThink; Andy Griffith, Pro Life Man; and Alex Schadenberg, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Breakout sessions for Middle/High School Students. Registration fee Adults \$30 by Sept. 12, \$40 beginning Sept. 13. College Students \$10. Middle/High School Students Free. To register: www.sdRightToLife.org**

PROTECTING SOUTH DAKOTA KIDS

Faith Leaders: Recreational Marijuana Harms

Jesus said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:6.

The facts are clear. The use of marijuana harms children. Jesus also urged us all to pray daily that we not be led into temptation. We must encourage South Dakotans not to open that door that has the probability of unleashing addiction, suicide, psychosis, and depression in young people.

A recent Mason Dixon poll shows that South Dakota's voters oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana by a margin of over 10%, 54.4% to 43.8%. That is good news for now, but that is before the big marijuana interests based in Washington, DC, spend their millions to lie to our citizens.

Faith Leaders are pleased to add our voice to the majority of South Dakotans, Mayors, Healthcare Professionals, Educators, Treatment Providers, Law Enforcement, and other professionals in South Dakota in encouraging citizens to get involved, learn the facts and **VOTE NO on Initiated Measure 27**. Marijuana has been proven to adversely affect its users, young people, our communities, our states, and our Nation. This is the time when we should be dissuading all drug use and NOT making a deadly product easier to acquire.

IM 27 only proscribes a \$100 penalty for those under the age of 21 who use or possess marijuana. This is less than your average speeding ticket, and will not be a helpful deterrent against minors using the drug.

Contrary to popular belief, marijuana is a harmful drug. There are more than 20,000 peer-reviewed research articles linking marijuana use to severe mental health outcomes, as well as consequences for physical health.

An overview of findings include:

- ◆ Marijuana use among young people in "legal" states is alarmingly high and rising. In Colorado, past month marijuana use among those age 15 or younger has increased 14.8% since 2017.

- ◆ Marijuana companies specifically target young people through many means including social media. Youth who are exposed to marijuana marketing on social media are five times more likely to use the drug.
- ◆ Companies market and profit from products that resemble candy and come in packaging and flavors that appeal to youth.
- ◆ A 2021 study found that youth who began using marijuana before age 15 were at a greater risk of short and long-term memory deficits.
- ◆ Chronic marijuana use is associated with cognitive impairment, worsened academic performance, and reduced educational attainment.
- ◆ The National Institute of Health states that regular marijuana use can reduce IQ by eight points and may be irreversible. It also impairs memory and learning.
- ◆ Marijuana can be a pathway to other drugs of abuse. Four out of every 10 lifetime marijuana users will go on to use another drug in their lifetime.
- ◆ In 2019, pre-pandemic, nearly 9.6 million young people aged 12 to 25 used marijuana in the past month. Past month use is indicative of frequent use.
- ◆ One study found cases of cannabis use disorder in young people in “legal” states grew 25% following legalization.

Pastors, churches and parishes must take the lead in fighting the legalization of marijuana in South Dakota. Many of our church's children are at risk. Even more so are those kids who lack a solid foundation and need us as shepherds to protect them from those who would exploit them for profit. The wolves are at the door. It is almost certain that we will be outspent in this battle by big marijuana interests, wanting to profit off of our children. As a pastor, please do all that you can to inform your congregation, and use your influence in the community for a NO vote on I M27.

Donations are requested for this effort, which can be sent to the Treasurer for “Protecting South Dakota Kids”: Fred Deutsch, Treasurer, 16452 449th Avenue, Florence, SD 57235

For further information please contact Pastor Harvey Opp, Chairman of the Faith Coalition, cell 641-494-8587 harveyopp@gmail.com or Father Brian Christensen, Vice Chairman of the Faith Coalition, frchristensen@gmail.com 605-431-8071. Join our efforts to protect South Dakota families: <https://www.facebook.com/sd.against.pot> and www.protectingsdkids.com

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