

MARCH 29, 2020

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We hope your visit here will be a prayerful time as you enjoy the lakes region.

Please consider St. Joseph's as your church away from home. Contact us at the Parish Office if we may serve you in any way.

We are committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and invite you to join us! May the Holy Spirit lead us in living as a welcoming Catholic community.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351
OFFICE: 712-338-2274
FAX: 712-338-2191
stjosephmilford.org
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.- Thurs.:

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri.: 7:30 a.m. - 12 noon

RECONCILIATION:
30 minutes before each Mass
BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesday 12 noon

MASS SCHEDULE:

Winter

Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8 and 10 a.m.

Summer

Saturday at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Are you new to the community?
Would you like to join St. Joseph Parish? Just fill out the coupon below and return to the office or in the collection basket.

NAME: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Willette Electric
Curt Willette
712-330-8072

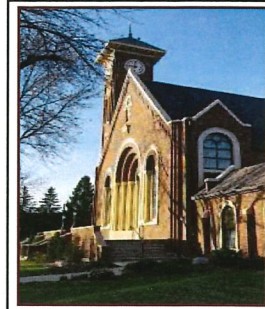
Seems a bit surreal this past week of Lent, now seven days from Holy Week. Last week Bishop Nickless gave us further guidelines, trying to responsibly follow CDC's recommendations. All church facilities must now be locked throughout the day, ending the possibility of personal prayer in the church body. Though it seems counterintuitive for our Catholic faith, we are not allowed to bring Communion to the homebound (except for serious circumstances). Following the recommendations set down by CDC Bishop Nickless is simply trying to protect the most vulnerable. We will continue to have daily Mass on our website and Facebook, taped from our church sanctuary. As we approach Holy Week beginning April 5th, taped liturgies will include Palm Sunday Mass and blessing of the palms, Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Service, and Easter Sunday Mass, welcoming two individuals—Debra Leners and Jordan Poock—to be received into our faith. Like other parishes we did cancel our order of Easter flowers because of the obvious shutdown, but we did receive our palms. They will be blessed on our Palm Sunday service and—following Bishop's guidelines—available on a table just outside the canopy doors on that Sunday. I appreciate your understanding and patience with the present status, and your continued support via online giving.

Though we may seem disoriented in terms of our Lenten journey due to the recent events in our nation, we are still called to seek reconciliation in preparation for the promise of Easter. Since our Communal Penance Service was cancelled and church is locked, may I offer this personal reconciliation service for your use.

Opening Prayer:
Merciful God, You have called us to be your people. We responded to your call in the waters of baptism. Our claim is to be followers of Jesus Christ. As I stumble and fall in trying to live like Jesus. I am sorry for the pain we have caused. I rely on your healing forgiveness. Help me to find our way back to you. Amen.

Reflection:
As Pope Francis guides us to consider: "God's forgiveness is what we all need, and it is the greatest sign of His mercy. A gift that every forgiven sinner is called upon to share with every brother and sister he or she meets. It is beautiful to be forgiven, but you too, if you wish to be forgiven, forgive in turn."

Scripture (Colossians 3:12-15)
You—yes, you! are God's chosen race of saints! God's beloved! Then clothe yourself in Christ Jesus. As a sign you have chosen, wear a compassionate heart, kindness, humility, gentleness, patient endurance. Bear one another's faults, one another's burdens. While the quarrel still smolders, stop—and forgive. Who are you—absolved—to withhold forgiveness? Over all these clothes, to unify and complete them, cloak your community in love—and be fulfilled. Let the arbiter in your midst be the peace of Christ, for it is his love that binds you into one Body. For that



By Fr. Tim Johnson

peace, that harmony, be forever grateful.

Personal Examination of Conscience:

For being thoughtless, unkind to others, forgive me Lord

For being selfish with our time and blessings, forgive me Lord

For not taking the time to pray; not sharing in the Eucharist, forgive me Lord

For the times we have cheated, acted dishonestly, forgive me Lord

For slandering, disrespecting others in our speech, forgive me Lord

For our pride, resentments, self centeredness, forgive me Lord

For our lack of trust in God's abiding grace, forgive me Lord

Quiet Reflection of Personal Sins:
Act of Contrition:

Lord Jesus, you opened the eyes of the blind,

healed the sick, forgave the sinful woman,

and after Peter's denial, confirmed him in your love.

Listen to my prayer: forgive all my sins, renew your love in my heart,

help me to live in unity with my fellow Christians

that I may proclaim your saving power to all the world.

Penance:
Quietly and reflectively pray a decade of the rosary for the intention of our doctors, nurses, medical personnel who are treating the vulnerable during this virus.

God Bless, Fr. Tim

FYI: Because we have extra space in the bulletin I can include a couple lighthearted musings if you will. I enjoy poetry (seldom understanding the poet's mind) and idioms that were a natural part of our spoken language. Enjoy a favorite poem of mine, and the paragraph of idioms I penned. May it bring a smile in this otherwise serious time. And thank you for amusing me.

"Soaking Up Sun" by Tom Henkenius

Today there is a kind of sunshine old men love, the kind of day when my grandfather would sit on the south side of the wooden corncrib where the sunlight warmed slowly all through the day like a wood stove. One after another dry leaves fell. No painful memories came. Everything was lit by a halo of light. The cornstalks glinted bright as pieces of glass. From the fields and cottonwood grove came the damp smell of mushrooms, of things going back to earth. I sat with my grandfa-ther then. Sheep came up to us as we sat there, their oily wool so warm to my fingers, like a strange and magic snow.

My grandfather whittled sweet smelling apple sticks just to get at the scent. His thumb had a permanent groove in it where the back of the knife blade rested. He let me listen to the wind, the wild geese, the soft dialect of sheep, while his own silence taught me every secret thing he knew.

I leave you with this paragraph of Idioms:

As I woke this day the good Lord whispered, "Dot your I's and Cross your T's" as the "bottom line" for the day's beginning. So "Out of the clear blue sky" I somehow get up "on the wrong side of the bed" and just like that I knew I was "out of the frying pan and into the fire" as this day began. But, I would not be a "stick in the mud" as the sun came up, hoping to "hang in there" for the duration and see possibly if I could "play fast and loose" because I didn't want to be "second fiddle" this day. So I opened the door to this world of possibilities and the good Lord whispered, "Chill out." So I swallowed His words "hook, line and sinker," turned around and said to myself, "Let's 'call it a day.'" And the lesson this day taught me: "you can't teach an old dog new tricks."

Moral of the story: "that's the way the ball bounces."

Fr. Tim

The Bishop has ordered that all facilities and the parish office remain closed during the eight week quarantine. Calls are being taken by Susan at 338-4674 or 320-2584. Calls for Sharon are being taken at 330-6028. Thank you for your understanding.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: Our KC's are starting a food/assistance project, "Helping Hands," for persons in need. They plan to distribute food cards to those in need within our parish. If the parishioner needs assistance shopping, running errands or whatever need, they can call the parish office and a KC member will be dispatched to assist. The KC's are asking parishioners to contribute, if able, to assist others in need. We are all in this together. Be kind. Be thoughtful of others who may need help.

TELL your friends our Mass is on Facebook or the website. We are new at this. Please bear with us as we move forward.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY from the St. Joseph Parish to Daleen Seibod on the death of her father, Dale James, 85, of Milford, who died Sun., March 15. Services will be held at a later date.

HAPPY 63rd BIRTHDAY FR. TIM
With the cancellation of his birthday potluck, parishioners and friends of Fr. Tim are urged to remember him on his birthday, Sunday, April 5, with a card send to 1305 Okoboji Ave., Milford, IA 51351. It's the best we can do under the circumstances.

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

Change. This is the operative word now. Everything we are used to has been turned upside down almost in a heartbeat. We have all had our world shaken up like a snow globe and it is far from settling down. When it all started, I was saddened by the turn of events and just started praying. I am still praying and happy that Fr. Tim with help of staff is able to present Mass to you. I miss seeing the Catechists, kids and families as our year was abruptly cut short. However, God does not give us more than He thinks we can handle with His help.

So we adapt to this virus intrusion which is more contagious than the cold or flu viruses. I hope for the safety of all. As I retool, I am thinking of what I can send all of my families to keep them involved in the church. There are many religious websites you can go to for kids to keep them in touch with their faith. Many have activities and crafts on them. Letting them watch the daily or weekend Mass with Fr. Tim is a good way to start. In addition to the Masses, we have the Rosary and Stations of the Cross on the website. That would be very appropriate for right now. I would encourage the younger ones focus on their prayers which I will send per grade level. Bible stories about Jesus at this time are good and I can send some recommendations. I have lessons I will send as well. Around Easter there are many movies on TV about Jesus last week or so with us. Holy week is the high point of our year.

We are waiting to hear about Confirmation and First Communion. Hopefully First Communion in the not too distant future. Those students will have special lessons sent home. We will still have weekly bulletins and a monthly newsletter only, available online. I check my email regularly. I am still planning on Bible school this summer for grades K-4 and I believe Camp CaYoCa is still a go. You will need to mail in your forms to me in April. Keep your chin up as we go forward.



Thank You Mary Lou!

With the cancellation of Mary Lou Schroeder's farewell party, parishioners and friends are encouraged to send her a card or a note to: Mary Lou Schroeder, 3723 South 119th St., Omaha, NE 68144. We want to thank Mary Lou for her many years of dedicated

service to the St. Joseph clothing room and the Treasure Chest Ministry.

NEW ONLINE GIVING

We have just installed the capabilities for online stewardship. Check out our website or Facebook page for details or call the office to set up automatic payments.

Scholarship application forms for the Knights of Columbus and CDA are available to our graduating seniors. Please contact the office for complete details.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 28

4:30 p +Rita Wuebker
+Tom Wuebker
+Bill Ruml

Sunday, March 29

8 a +Margaret Rehse
10 a +Floyd Sporrer

Monday, March 30

7:30 a +Greg Deman

Tuesday, March 31

5:15 p +Sean Enfield

Wednesday, April 1

7:30 a Halbur/Johnson
+Bud Brooks

Thursday, April 2

7:30 a +Art Reiser

Friday, April 3

7:30 a +Al & Mary Schultz

Saturday, April 4

4:30 p +Clara & +Fred Sporrer
+Dolores & +Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sunday, April 5

8 a +Jeffery Eggers
10 a +Jim & +Phyllis Streit
+Lorraine Kenney

+Todd Wittrock, Wittrock/Baxter Fam

Count your Blessings!

Please pray for these

St. Joseph Parishioners:

Elizabeth Knudtson, Mike Wilison, Geneva Knudtson, Roger Wittrock, Rick DeMuth, Connie Jackson, Fr. Tom Flanagan, Bev Sporrer, Glatha Langel, Linda Higgins, Mary Ann Sigler, Dennis and Alma Klute, Jerry Clark, Robert Rowland, Bill James, Marie Van Hofwegen, Ethel Wilson, Steve Painter, Ginny Yore, LaDonna Jansen, Dale Langel, Finley Brunsvold, Dee Bryant, Phyllis Hintz, Terry Abbas, Susan Robinson, Leona Spieker.

Other Special Persons: Leo Trebbien, Kyle Pedley, Kevin Wittrock, Peggy Reit, Fr. John Vakulskas, Pam Cerny, Charlotte Tiesler, Tailen Sturtz, Aimee Wallrich, Sara Springer, Betty Taylor, Mary Vogel, Diane De Vries, Marilyn Mertz, Jan Wolf, Peggy Price, Joan Mertz, John Bruening, Ann Willette, Ashlyn Clark, Jerry Wolford, Kami Svoboda, Darrel Wedeking, Dan Mulder, Pam Meyer, Leah Brevik, Colleen Mulder, Jamie O'Neill, Carol Willette, Pat Juza, Bea Reiter, Paula Bernardy, Mary Jones, Andy Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stille and Howie Holdenried.

Continued in next column