

APRIL 19, 2020

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's
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

Spencer Truck Line, Inc.

Spencer

712-262-1722

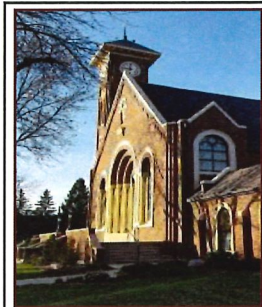
Though the Sunday paper came in the midst of an Easter snowstorm, I easily recognized the person pictured on the front page, front and center: Bishop Nickless. A picture taken as he presided at Holy Thursday Mass with only a deacon and server present, along with the smartphone attached to a tripod in front of the bishop live-streaming the service. Of course the article discussed our unique social situation at present and the varied and creative endeavors with technology to record, live-stream, download, and save so people have the opportunity to stay 'connected.'

In terms of our Catholic-Christian faith we have been informed of a multiplicity of Catholic sites and that of virtually every parish website carrying the taped Masses from their own church. Just at our fingertips, varied aspects of our faith to encourage us, support us, and to hold us together as Church. Almost daunting. Being an 'ol codger, the limitations of technology at the time—though profound for me—seem so rudimentary now.

Staying 'connected' meant Walter Conkrite interrupting the television program with a serious 'news-flash', informing us of something essential for our country. Sometimes a weather alert of a very serious nature, such as a tornado watch; and sometimes the complete interruption of regular programming by all three networks to televise a president's funeral, a space landing, the loss of a public figure or instrumental moment for our country. Such was all we needed then. Now the advanced technology enables us to witness a Mass online from the west or east coast, from the deep south to an island off the coast of Canada. Equally accessible is any type of information pertaining to our Catholic faith, from saints to the Swiss guards at the Vatican.

Such however cannot replace human interaction, relational moments, gatherings whether large or small, "community" regardless of the size. And for us Catholics, the Eucharist is the defining bond calling us together as "community." For a Catholic family sharing not just a meal, but a prayer prior to eating begets community; for a person remembering the specific needs of another in prayer, a spiritual community.

During this time when we are unable to share in the Eucharist, and stumbling through this time of social isolation (for the wellbeing of the most vulnerable) we can take heart in the words of Dorothy Day, who began the Catholic Worker Movement and created places of hospitality: "We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." Even with the numerous Catholic sites not to mention the multitude of parishes sharing their respective Masses, we experience, at times, such loneliness as Dorothy Day from her own



By Fr. Tim Johnson

experience.

Though we can not determine when, we will again share in the Eucharist together, bringing us into the visible community of Christ's Church. And regardless of where we have shared in the Eucharist in the past and our present abstinence from the Sacrament, we will remain by grace as the Body of Christ, as reflected in the words of Pope John XIII: "In this world of ours, every believer must be a spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying ferment for the mass; and it will be that all the more as, in the depths of his being, he lives in communion with God." As we wait, we sacrifice, so we are by the grace of the Eucharist.

Blessing upon you and your family this Easter Season,

Fr. Tim

P.S. Gratefully acknowledge and thank staff for their technical abilities to make available the parish Masses and other parish information online at our website, Facebook.

And gratefulness for the beautiful music and cantors that reflect the grace of Holy Week and Easter; likewise, those who prepared so beautifully the parish sanctuary for our Easter celebration, and those who have volunteered to serve and read at the Masses that are taped. We welcome back Zach Jones, finishing up his second year of seminary formation and studies. He will be helping out at our parish Masses and other aspects until his summer assignment. And too, thank you for your continued faith, prayers for others and support of our parish.

FYI: Bishop Nickless is cautious about the timing for the resumption of parish activities and public Masses. At the diocese they are preparing for different scenarios, depending on the CDC's recommendations and timeline. He has been a source of strength and compassion during this time of uncertainty and without precedence. Please keep him in your prayers.

AND FINALLY . . . in light of the blizzard conditions on, of all days, Easter Sunday, Mark Twain always has the most appropriate outlook: "In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."



It's National Volunteer Week and we want to sincerely thank all of our wonderful volunteers at St. Joseph. When the time comes, you will be treated to a dinner in your honor. But now we can only say THANKS A BUNCH!

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

For those who have not let the Coronavirus get the best of you, we are in the Easter season and that means JOY! Jesus did exactly as promised: He took away our sin, opened the gates of heaven to all people, rose and set the disciples off on a good footing to begin our church with the help of the Holy Spirit. Although it seemed odd to watch our Mass from home, it was still wonderful to participate that way. I am hoping all our families were able to watch Mass together and notice the various changes in our church during Holy Week. Some of you might have been able to watch it on a big screen TV like my son in Orlando did. He has a 75" one!

It is hell Jesus went through before death and hell He overcame with the promise that our church will never succumb to that either. Think about that...never succumb. We always have the power of the Holy Spirit with us. All we need to do is ask.

I must say, having things shut down and people not working is a bummer. I have been fortunate that I can still come in and do some communicating through email. My Catechists have also wished to communicate with their students, as a bond is built over a school year. I got the golf course ready to go and had some golfers when Mother Nature took matters into her own hands and said, "not quite yet".

A gardener I am not but I know people are looking forward to this especially this year. I have noticed my two tulips up and Hostas trying to get going. My son Joe has planted some vegetables in Omaha and having no parental help in that area, he does quite well with his garden.

I am looking forward to the warm days ahead when we can start seeing some normalcy. I pray everyday for those afflicted and for our scientists and medical teams to find help against this virus. I think they are making some progress from what I hear. The situation is still hard to accept.

One more casualty of this virus is Camp CaYoCa. It has been cancelled for 2020.

I hope this time has allowed for our families to get to know each other better and appreciate each other. We are usually so busy with activities that we don't spend enough time together to really know one another. That is one good outcome that there could be. Keep faith strong as we work through this time.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

REMEMBER to keep your Rice Bowls, keep filling them and plan to return them to the Church when we can gather again.

TO ENHANCE your faith during this time, there are links available on the Diocese of Sioux City website.

WE CONTINUE to receive nice comments both online and in the mail. We enjoy hearing feedback, good or bad. Following are the latest notes in the mailbag.



✓ Thank you for the videos of mass! I have enjoyed watching them! Great singers too!

Kate Heese, Grand Junction, IA.

✓ Thank you for online masses! Be Safe.

--A parishioner

✓ Thank you for online Mass! God's blessings to you to stay safe and healthy!

--A parishioner

✓ Fr. Tim - Thanks so much for streaming the Easter week services. They were all very beautiful and your church is beautiful too!

Kevin and Barb O'Rourke, Cedar Falls, IA

✓ Fr. Tim - We have been blessed to have the opportunity to offer daily mass with you. Thank you. Anxiously awaiting to receive Our Lord in Holy Eucharist.

--A parishioner

✓ Fr. Tim - Sending you greetings and prayers from Hastings, NE! I feel like I'm not that far away as I watch Mass from St. Joe's every morning. Thank You. It has become part of my routine and a positive good way to start fresh. Mike and I just wanted you to know we think of you and the St. Joe's community and will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Take Care.

Sue and Mike Uridil

PLEASE be patient as we are slowly creeping, like a turtle, to complete the special Centennial Photo Book you were promised last July. Yes, it has been a rocky road with a few big potholes. We submitted the book to be printed only to be told that the printing factory was closed because of covid until May. We continue to pray that you will be reading it by July.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Weekend Masses 4/18-19

+Thomas John Oleson
+Nora and +Leo Fitzpatrick
+Joan and +Earl Langel
+Alan Langel

Monday, April 20

+Joyce Fear

Tuesday, April 21

+Betty Newman

Wednesday, April 22

Halbur/Johnson

Thursday, April 23

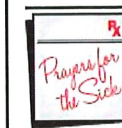
+Lucille Vogel

Friday, April 24

Special Int. (JLW)

Weekend Masses 4/25-26

+Bill Ruml
+Rita Wuebker
+Tom Wuebker
+Sharon Knudtson
+Floyd Sporrer



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: Jan Norgaard, Kathy Kapustka, Kristin Meyer, Leo Trebbien, Kyle Pedley, Kevin Wittrock, Peggy Reit, Fr. John Vakulskas, 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 Benson, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stilley and Howie Holdenried.