

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY 3, 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

Pioneer Printing

Your Wedding Headquarters
Milford

Our gospel passage this weekend is quite poignant in regards to the expectant updates and encouragement from our "shepherd," Bishop Nickless. Prudently, Bishop Nickless paused for a time without offering a response to Governor Reynold's announcement that 'places of worship' are allowed to hold public gatherings within certain guidelines. In consultation with the other three Bishops of Iowa (Most Rev. Michael Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque; Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula; Bishop of Davenport; Most Rev. William Joensen, Bishop of Des Moines) they released a joint statement which I share in part:

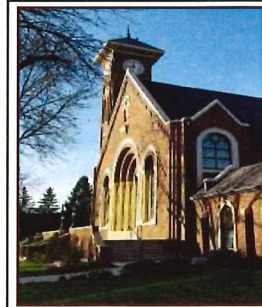
With the lifting of restrictions against certain public gatherings, including religious assemblies, by Governor Kim Reynolds, members of the faithful are understandably renewed in their hope that they might safely return to church and resume some form of regular parish life. Yet the spread of the COVID-19 disease remains a real and present danger. In particular, the health and survival of the elderly and other vulnerable populations is still a grave concern. In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, we have decided it would be most prudent for now to continue to follow the liturgical restrictions we have in place, including the suspension of public Masses. Without an effective vaccine or widespread testing and contact data that justifies a change in course, we simply are not at a place where we can resume our previous prayer practices.

The suspension of the Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect statewide. We will continue to closely monitor the statewide and respective regional situations through the weeks of May and beyond. When the time comes that we can gather in greater numbers while observing social distance, safe hygienic practices and other precautions without placing one another at serious risk, public Masses and other sacramental celebrations will be allowed to resume.

Many individuals I've visited with are still very cautious and concerned about the spread of the virus and their own wellbeing. Others whom I have talked to are less concerned and more than ready to participate in social activities especially as the weather warms. I trust in the leadership and decisions of our Bishop and that of our Governor Reynolds, with the hope our Christian faith and prayers will keep us in community, and stronger through our respective sacrifices.

Please hold in you your prayers Terry and Renee Hott whose daughter, Lori, was killed in a car accident last Tuesday; likewise, prayer for her two children who are now with their father. Also hold in your prayers our parishioners who are residents in care centers and assisted living accommodations; they have been 'cloistered' for several weeks for their own protection.

Oh yes, lest I forget Our gospel passage from John, chapter ten, describes the grace of a good



By Fr. Tim Johnson

shepherd. "The shepherd calls his own by name, and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice." Though Bishop Nickless' communication with his 'sheep' is much more advanced tech wise, his voice and faith remain a constant presence in our journey through this surreal time. He may not determine the course of events or certainly alter what is presently taking place, but he can guide us by faith through these days that seem so incomprehensible.

Food for thought. "The shepherd drives the wolf from the sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty. Plainly, the sheep and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of liberty." (Abraham Lincoln)

Fr. Tim



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY from the St. Joseph Parish Family to Zoey and Zander Hott and Terry and Renee Hott and family on the death of their mother and daughter, +Lori Hott, who died Tues., April 28. Services were pending as of bulletin presstime.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

✓ The Dickinson County Food Pantry would like to thank you for your donation of \$2,000.00. Our goal is to make sure no one goes to bed hungry or in need of basic necessities for daily living. Your donation helps us achieve this goal. Thank you for your donation and continued support.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.

✓ Thank you to the secret baker who surprised staff with homemade muffins this past week. We appreciate being appreciated.
St. Joseph Parish Staff

Worship
with us
from
HOME

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

As we go along, tings are looking up. Some businesses are able to open. I am fortunate that the golf course is open and with some adjustments, things are gong pretty well. It is just a matter of remembering that we are not to behave normally but instead remember to keep a distance and watch what you touch and then wash your hands or use sanitizer. Our business has restrictions that we have to abide with as well.

Our Diocese will not be allowing us to return to Mass just yet. All things in good time. I have mailed out a May/Summer packet to our Family Formation learning group and this week will be sending some information via email about Mary.

May is one month dedicated to Mary. We usually end our year with a May Crowning of Mary. This is something that can be done at home if you have a Blessed Mother statue. Even if you don't, you can still honor Mary. An email will be coming your way about that this week. Toward the middle of the month, I will be sending out information about Pentecost, the birthday of our Church and celebration of the Holy Spirit .It would be more than wonderful if we could see each other face to face by then, but am not holding my breath.

I am keeping busy and have found that I am in better frame of mind if I do not listen to news about the virus so much. We cannot stop it. We can only give it time so that a vaccine may be found or at least help found for the very seriously ill. Life does go on and there are other things that need our attention as well. Moving down the road we will need to be conscious of where we are and what we are doing all the time. I have to be honest-I do not like masks, but will wear one. I even have one with Peanuts characters, one of my favorite things.

It will be a busy time here when things shake out. In the meantime, I hope you all stay healthy and be careful with what you do and where you go. I leave you with a quote from my May calendar page: "God's compassion for you is greater than the troubles you have." St. John Baptiste de La Salle.



Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

SPREAD
Joy!
NOT
GERMS

FOURTH 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.

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 your wonderful live stream Masses. We Miss You! --a Parishioner

✓ Thank you so much for having the Mass on the internet. We really enjoy watching Father Tim. And the Church is so pretty this Easter. We really miss coming and seeing everyone. God Bless You All.



--a Parishioner

✓ We attend Sunday Mass at your church during the summer months. We always enjoy the welcoming community and the beautiful message you share. We were able to get the online service this past Sunday. Thank You.

--Gale and John Kearney, Ames, IA

✓ Fr. Tim and Parish Ministers: Thank you for the lovely and meaningful liturgies the past several weeks and especially over Easter.

--Vicki Gach, Carroll, IA

✓ Use this check as needed. Be Safe and God Bless ss.

--a Parishioner

✓ To Fr. Tim and St. Joseph's Parish: Thank you for all the wonderful liturgies since the quarantine began and the churches had to close their doors. Your church liturgies have been a life-saver to our household! Many prayers and blessings to you all.

Linda and Craig Neppi, Estherville, IA

✓ Your online masses are beautiful! Big "Hi" to Fr. Tim.

Norm and Sherry Nieland, Carroll, IA

✓ Just a quick note thanking Fr. Tim for the beautiful homilies he has been providing via video. Especially happy to see Zack there assisting with Masses. On another note of the weekend Mass, it would be kind of respectful to also show those providing the beautiful music. Thanks again.

--a St. Joseph Parishioner.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: Thank You for the overwhelming response to the KC "Helping Hands" project. If you are in need of food or assistance, call the office and a KC member will be dispatched to assist. We are all in this together. Be kind. Be thoughtful of others who may need help.

REMEMBER your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister or special woman in your life with the Mother's Day Novena of 9 Masses which begins Tues., May 12. Send your intentions to the office by Wed., May 6.



MASS INTENTIONS

Weekend Masses 5/2-3

+Bo Schnetter
+Bill Badding
+Lorraine Kenney
+Jim & +Phyllis Streit

Monday, May 4

No Mass Today

Tuesday, May 5

+Bill Badding

Wednesday, May 6

+Bud Brooks

Thursday, May 7

Special Int. (JLW)

Friday, May 8

+Mary Negus

Weekend Masses 5/9-10

+John Cain
+Betty Newman
+Sr. Genny Morrissey
+Todd Wittrock

+Dec/Liv Wittrock/Baxter Fam.

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



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 Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stillie and Howie Holdenried.