

MAY 10, 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

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

Edward Jones

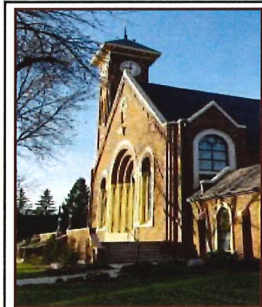
Milford

712-338-9393

Eight weeks ago our Bishop mandated the suspension of all public Masses, of all social and religious gatherings, meetings within the parishes and schools of our diocese. He was following the guidelines of the Center For Disease Control, keeping in mind the wellbeing of the most vulnerable and others during this period of uncertainty due to the threat of the virus. During this time, as surreal as it has been, I have listened to the opinions of various individuals—each with their own slant as to the threat or over reaction to the spread of this virus. Along the way, trying to find steady ground when suddenly the routine and expectations of life has been upended, I have felt a re-assurance in Bishop Nickless' guidance, reasoning and gentle strength. He has reminded us of our greatest asset without assuming a full understanding of this present journey; that is our personal and communal Catholic-Christian faith. Whatever our outlook or opinion of our national and local efforts, it has been our faith and personal prayer pulling us beyond the myriad voices, and keeping us connected in some way to our Church, to our community of St. Joseph, to a "presence" of light guiding us to the hope of a new day. Along with his staff, Bishop Nickless has been preparing for the proper time—with adequate safeguards—to open our churches for participation within the Mass. We should know soon when we are able to gather as a parish—albeit with guidelines—bringing together our hopes and concerns, our faith and prayers, guided by the Light received in the Eucharist.

During these past eight weeks we have been blessed with Cain's technical efforts assisted by Susan, allowing for the recording of our Sunday and daily Masses. Such has kept us together as a parish, and allowed 'visitors' from other areas far and near to share in our Eucharist. Sparked by the diocesan and statewide restrictions—and supplemented by the good will of a parishioner—the taping has provided creative approaches to keep us in touch as a parish through our website and Facebook page. With Cain's urging, we are putting in the equipment to live stream and record our Parish Masses into the future for those who are unable to attend and share in our Eucharist for whatever reasons. We have received some donations from a variety of individuals outside of our parish who have shared in our taped Masses. If you would like to donate towards this equipment which will benefit our parish for the ensuing weeks and years to come, please call the parish office.

Mother's Day. A time honored pause to gratefully remember their breath of life and nurturing and protection instinctively afforded you and I—their daughters and sons. Perhaps Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said it best, "Art is the child of nature in whom we trace the features of the mothers face." A precious gift, motherhood, as only God could bequeath. May I offer this fitting poem by the former Poet Laureate of the United States from nearby Nebraska, Ted Kooser:



By Fr. Tim Johnson

Mother
Mid April already, and the wild plums bloom at the roadside, a lacy white against the exuberant, jubilant green of new grass an the dusty, fading black of burned-out ditches. No leaves, not yet,
only the delicate, star-petaled blossoms, sweet with their timeless perfume.

You have been gone a month today and have missed three rains and one nightlong watch for tornadoes. I sat in the cellar from six to eight while fat spring clouds went somersaulting, rumbling east. Then it poured,
a storm that walked on legs of lightning, dragging its shaggy belly over the fields.

The meadowlarks are back, and the finches are turning from green to gold. Those same two geese have come to the pond again this year,
honking in over the trees and splash-ing down. They never nest, but stay a week or two then leave. The peonies are up, the red sprouts burning in circles like birthday candles,

for this is the month of my birth, as you know,
the best month to be born in, thanks to you,
everything ready to burst with living. There will be no more new flannel nightshirts
sewn on your old black Singer, no birthday card addressed in a shaky but businesslike hand.
You asked me if I would be sad when it happened

and I am sad. But the iris I moved from your house
now hold in the dusty dry fists of their roots
green knives and forks as if waiting for dinner,
as if spring were a feast. I thank you for that.
Were it not for the way you taught me to look
at the world, to see the life at play in everything,
I would have to be lonely forever.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Spring is the fitting setting—within this Easter Season—for our pause to gratefully remember the gift of our mothers, living and deceased, as only God could have bequeathed. Personally, Mark Twain's quote reminds me of my beloved mother Eileen, God rest her soul: "My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it."

May the blessing of the Divine
Be an especially bright benediction
Upon mothers everywhere
On your blessed day -
On Mother's Day!

Happy Mother's Day, and thank you for believing in the blessing of your vocation as only God could 'bequeath.'

God Bless,

Fr. Tim



Mother's Day Novena

The following special women are being remembered in the Mother's Day Novena of Nine Masses which start

Tues., May 12. Deceased are marked with a +. Let us remember: +Doris Gerdes, +Leona Aumer, Christy Hickman and Melissa Aumer by Bill and Cheryl Aumer; +Irene Theis by Vicky Theis; +Joan Langel, +Dorothy Cranston, +Cindy Rush, +Matilda Langel, +Ella Hoffman, +Ella Lair, +Lorene Hoffman, Phyllis Hintz, Mary Langel, Glatha Langel, Nancy Kerr, Luann Langel and Michelle Langel by Barb Langel.



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY from the St. Joseph Parish Family to:

✓ Chad Harms on the death of his father, +Rodney, 81, of Hartley, who died Sat., May 2. A private funeral was held Wed., May 6; and
✓ Julie Choicine on the death of her mother, +Sharon Arms, 71, of Okoboji, who died Tues., May 5. A private Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wed., May 20, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milford.

"The one who has faith in me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells his disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

April 22 to May 4, 2020

Weekly Envelopes: \$11,765.00 Loose: \$225.00
Peace & Justice: \$925.00
Online Ministry: \$840.00 Holy Land: \$55.00
Cemetery: \$250.00 Endow: \$570.00
Aid to Global Churches: \$25.00 Peter's Pence: \$5.00
Aid to Domestic Churches: \$10.00

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FAITH FORMATION

By Sharon Mayer

A belated Happy May Day! I always used to pick wildflowers for my mom when I was young. They were mostly violets with a couple of dandelions thrown in or whatever was blooming at the time and she always smiled when I gave them to her.

This weekend is Mother's Day. I know under the circumstances; many will not be able to see their mothers in person. We can be grateful during these times for telephone, computers and the like to be able to skype or zoom or video chat or whatever else is out there. Then there is just plain mailing a card which I still really like. In 1990 I had a wonderful gift of a son whom we named Joseph. He turns 30 this year and so I celebrate his birthday and he celebrates me being his mom. I like to talk to my kids on the phone or text as they go on about their activities. The greatest blessings and accomplishments in my life are my children. Hands down. I feel like I should be the one sending them cards instead of the other way around.

This past week I sent to our families some information about the Virgin Mary. May is the month to honor Mary so I sent a packet of information and suggestions to them. Had we had religious education we would have closed with a May Crowning of Mary and sang some songs. We will hope for that next year.

There are a lot of Catholic things online for us to be a part of- not just Mass. The Mass with Fr. Tim is important for the contact to our church and especially for our second graders who will be making their First Communion as soon as we can. Pentecost will be with us at the end of this month. That is the birthday of our church and the time when the Holy Spirit became our helper through life as promised by Jesus. The students who will celebrate Confirmation, when we can, should be attuned to that particular church celebration. I am also sending a Pentecost lesson home for our families before then.

Although our children usually take a break from classes during the summer months, we do not break from Mass and Christian attitude and actions. This year is no different. It will just be nice to be able to share these things face to face soon.

WE ARE NOW taking items for the Treasure Chest Garage Sale Ministry. Please call Cheryl Aumer at 712-331-4303 to make an appointment. We do not accept electronic items.

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 posting week-end Mass and weekday Mass online. We have been watching them and appreciate you doing this. It is comforting and brings peace to our soul. Peace of the Lord be with you.



--A Parishioner

MASS INTENTIONS

Weekend Masses 5/9-10

+John Cain
+Betty Newman
+Sr. Genny Morrissey
+Todd Wittrock
+Dec/Liv Wittrock/Baxter Fam.
+Rodney Harms
+Pete & +Izzy Hart

Monday, May 11

+Bud Brooks

Tuesday, May 12

Mother's Day (1)

Wednesday, May 13

Mother's Day (2)

Thursday, May 14

Mother's Day (3)

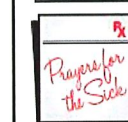
Friday, May 15

Mother's Day (4)

Weekend Masses 5/16-17

+Skip Eggers
+Joe Schmitz
+Joan & +Earl Langel
+Alan Langel

REMEMBER to fill your Rice Bowls plan to return them to the Church when we open.



Please pray for these St. Joseph Parishioners:

Elizabeth Knudtson, Mike Wilison, Geneva Knudtson, Roger Wittrock, Rick DeMuth, Connie Jackson, Fr. Tom Flanagan, Bev Sporer, 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 Bernady, Mary Jones, Andy Bensman, Todd Clausen, Zach Budden, Jan James, Sharon Forsman, Aden Remme, Jeff Harbst, Esther Baxter, Melissa Hruby, David Smith, Jean Stilley and Howie Holdenried.