

SAINT COLUMBKILLE

May 24, 2020

C A T H O L I C C H U R C H

Welcome

We are GLAD you are HERE.

Any Questions?

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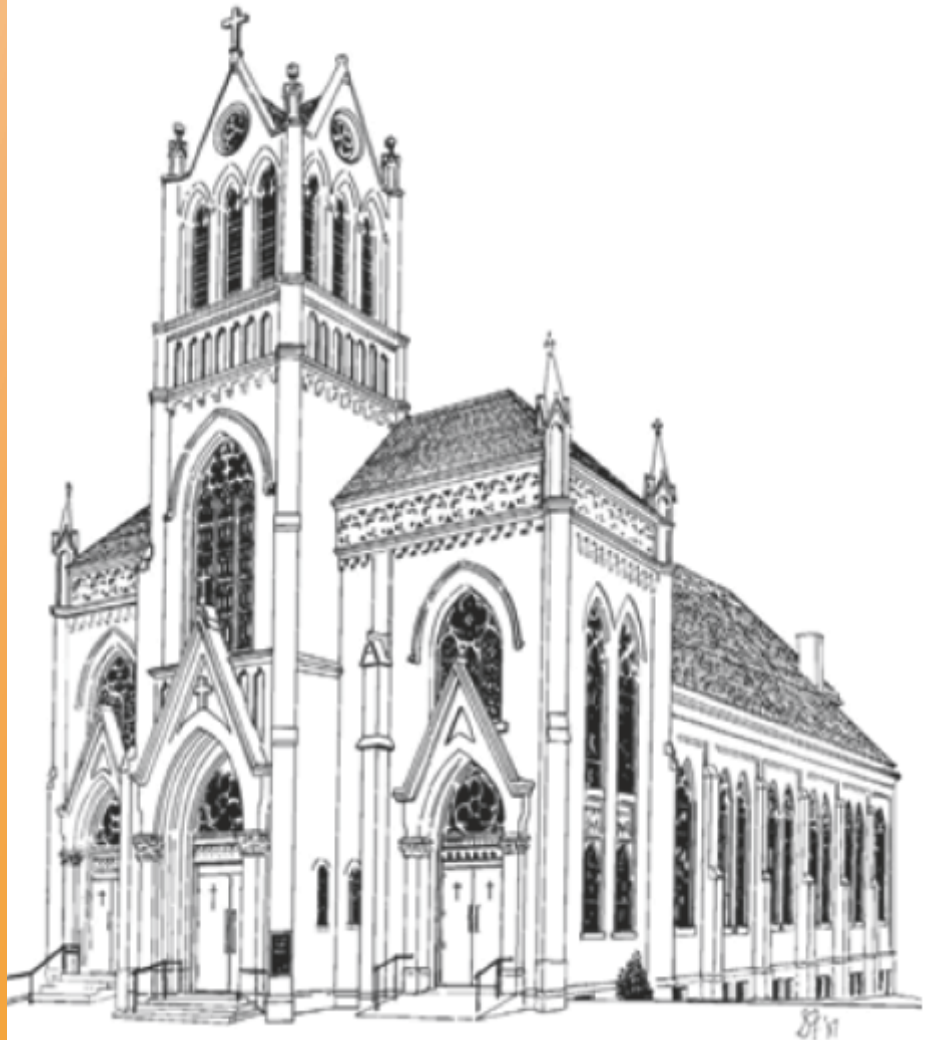
Deacon Bill Biver
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Deacon Frank Dunn

Mission Statement

**God CALLS us to be disciples and
FORMS us by our Catholic Faith to
ENCOUNTER Christ
EMBRACE deeper faith and
EMPOWER Christian action.**



1240 Rush Street • Dubuque, Iowa
52003 • www.stcolumbkille.net

ENCOUNTER: Mass Intention and added prayers for:

OFFERED BY PRIESTS PRIVATELY

Monday, May 25

9:00 am † **Marvin & Brett Connolly**

* Shirley Gassmann

Tuesday, May 26

9:00 am † **Alice Freyaldenhoven**

Wednesday, May 27

9:00 am † **Frank Neenan**

Thursday, May 28

9:00 am † **Msgr. Francis P. Friedl**

Friday, May 29

9:00 am † **Daniel P. Aslin**

* For Salvation of a Soul

Saturday, May 30

4:15 pm † **Don Ruden**

* Honkamp/Wubben Family

Sunday, May 31

8:00 am **Pro Popolo**

Doris Trausch

10:00 am † **Roy & Millie Schlickman**

CONFESSION

During This Stressful Time we have had to adopt new guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For the time being we can only do confessions by appointment. If you want to make an appointment, please call the Parish Office and the secretary will ask you a few questions and get your first name and your telephone number. The secretary will then contact Fr. Paul and he will call you direct either to set up an appointment or just talk to you on the phone. We don't like this situation any better than you do - but we have to be safe **AND** we want **YOU** to be safe as well. "...shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen."

~ Intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe

EMPOWER: Financial Report

Week of5/17/2020

Weekly Received.....\$14,624.20

Weekly Budgeted\$18,759.00

Weekly Shortage(\$4,134.80)

Since July 1, 2019:

Year-To-Date Received\$824,677.54

Year-To-Date Budgeted\$862,914.00

Year-To-Date Shortage.....(\$38,236.46)

What is your reason for hope? (Fr. David's May 17 Homily)

1 Peter 3:15 -"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence."

This is a serious question—A question that comes to the sense of faith today. What is the content of our hope? Is it more than just optimism? A vague hope for a future reality. Or does it have concrete meaning?

St. Pope John Paul II speaks of "The Catechism of the Catholic Church, lastly, is offered to every individual who asks us to give an account of the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15) and who wants to know what the Catholic Church believes (JPII, Fidei Depositum, 3).

I was in a Chaplain program out in Michigan with seminarians from different faiths. One young man, who was a Universalist Unitarian, asked great questions. I would say to him, "you are a heck of a lot smarter than I am—Someday you will end up being a Catholic."

This led to a conversation about what our Churches actually taught. We agreed to bring our Catechisms—His was a single piece of paper with 5 items and I brought him the Catechism. This was a major mistake. Every day he would come back and refer to a number 372, 899, 1077 and expect me to know what it was. The Catechism has 2,865 statements of faith.

Pope John Paul I pointed out one hope is that we are a teaching Church. We take seriously that what we have been given, we are to pass on to those we encounter. The very action of the priest receiving the Eucharist first tells us that we give nothing that we have not first received.

Several weeks ago, Archbishop Jackels gave a homily that challenges us and all of our assumptions after the pandemic is over. For the Archbishop, the pandemic shows us that our Church is in need of repair. He said, "To repair the Church, the Mass has to aim at spiritually transforming worshippers, to be agents of transformation, on mission to be joyful and guides us to serve the poor." Wow, what does that look like?

For me, his next statement hit me even harder. He said, "And we'll still do faith formation, **maybe even have Catholic schools**, but to repair the Church, faith formation programs have to form us in Jesus' teaching on poverty and guide us to serve the poor."

How can he say "maybe even have Catholic schools"? Between St. Columbkille and St. Joseph the Worker, we subsidize our Catholic School system at a rate of about \$1.5 million every year. We have cut staff, delayed maintenance, and cut every corner to keep our schools going. I, as Fr. Tom and Fr. Paul, all grew up being educated in Catholic Schools. My hope is that we are not simply educating students but that they will assist us in transforming worshippers and become agents of transformation.

Do all of my assumptions about Catholic schools, about education actually pan out? Or am I causing more damage to our Church by supporting a school that does not actually help others become "agents of transformation?"

Two experiences that remind me of the importance of education. The Universalist Unitarian asked me "Who put this whole thing (the Catechism) together?" Jokingly, he said, "it is like it is 2,000 years in the making!" I realized I took it for granted. The Church as a teaching body, for all its flaws, gives us an image of God and life that is complete and whole.

Sunday

Dear Parish Community:

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, a special high feast of this Easter Season. For the apostles, they anticipated this event with very mixed emotions just as any of us would who await the passing of a dear friend. And yet, Jesus assured them, as He assures us, His going to His Father promises even greater graces and possibilities. He would send His Spirit to be with us always.

The Ascension has within it both a holding on and a letting go. We can be very aware when our loved one dies, we do hold on and treasure the best of all their life brought us. We remember the gifts shared and give thanks. At the same time, we let them go, let them rise to be united and welcomed to their eternal home, to meet Jesus face to face. We rejoice that their life's mission is complete, that the best of them lives within us, but now they move on to faith's promised land and union with the God in whom they believed and for whom they lived.

We learn too from our readings, that just before Jesus left his apostles, He commissioned them to continue His mission, to carry on and bring the fullness of gospel values to the whole world. We surely see that gospel witness continuing in the service and sacrifices offered to friends, neighbors and strangers throughout these weeks with things like this Covid-19 Pandemic.

Like the apostles, we too are receiving Holy Spirit power. No matter what our circumstances or whatever difficulties befall us. God is with us. "Behold, I am with you always." And God sends us forth to bring good news in the midst of any and all circumstances.

As our lives begin to move forward with the greatest of care, we come to appreciate the gift of community and how very interconnected we are. We look forward to returning to Mass, the Eucharist and Sacraments. Let us continue to pray for one another and for our community to be aware, conscientious, safe and secure. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit continues to lead our lives toward ever greater love and service.

Fr. Paul Attak-Nsiah



St. Columbkille Parishioners for returning your Census snippet and for signing up for Electronic Funds Transfer **OR** increasing your EFT contribution!!! And **Thank You** for the donations you have dropped off or mailed to us. It's parishioners like **YOU** who have kept St. Columbkille strong in these trying times.

**"Fear Not, For I Am With You."
— Isaiah 41:10**

ENCOUNTER: Readings for the Week

Week of May 24, 2020

Sun: Acts 1:12-14/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a
Mon: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
Tues: Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
Wed: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
Thurs: Acts 22:30;23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
Fri: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
Sat: Gn 11:1-9/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Next Sun: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13/
Jn 20:19-23

→ Just to give a sense of its depth, it has 32 pages of Scripture citations alone. We are reminded that we cannot and do not have to do this alone.

The second experience is Mike Faley. As his wife, Sharon Faley will tell you, he needs lots of transformation! He invited me to a monthly meeting of the 1953 graduating class of St. Columbkille High School. He changed their schedule so that I could attend. One of his classmates said he couldn't make it because he has a golf group. Mike responded, "Who is going to be at your funeral? Your classmates from St. Columbkille or your golf buddies?" Mike's classmate showed up. Mike's Catholic education gave him two things: 1. To know what is important—true friendship and 2. To know our true end—not to run away from death but to embrace the resurrected life.

What is your reason for hope? Knowing this is part of repairing the Church.

No matter what happens as we come out of this pandemic, we will need to be able to give a reason for hope. I believe good education and formation is a necessary component for hope and for transformation. I believe the gift of a teaching church is a signal of what can be done together rather than divided. I believe we must check all of our assumptions: Is how we celebrate Mass able to transform in hope? Does our Catholic school actually support that mission? Do we actually help people encounter Christ, embrace deeper faith, and empower Christian action?

I cannot answer that question alone. An empty church is a tremendous reminder of who is missing. When possible will people participate in Mass to Encounter Christ? Is the teaching church seen as a gift or taken for granted? Is deeper faith something to be embraced? Does my faith empower Christian action?

What is your answer? Can you give a reason for hope?

<p>KANE FAMILY DENTISTRY KEVIN E. KANE, D.D.S. Parish Member NICHOLAS K. KANE, D.D.S. 1303 Delhi St. • 583-2789 <i>New Patients Always Welcome!</i></p>		<p>Make Yourself at Home + FloorShow™ 1475 Associates Dr Dubuque, IA 52002 563.557.9952 homeandfloorshow.com</p>		<p>The Genuine. The Original. OVERHEAD DOOR Overhead Door Company of Dubuque DIV: Cedar Cross OverheadDoor 1040 Cedar Cross Rd. • Dubuque, IA 52003 Dan, Chip & Jack Pregler 582-3020</p>
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