

Good Shepherd CLUSTER

Sunday, May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of Easter

Dear Padre

May 3, 2026

I have one daughter and a grandchild who say they are bisexual and very much into the LGBTQ lifestyle, where they feel like they belong. I do not know how to handle all of this. They left the Catholic faith years ago. I do not believe they are atheists. Please help.

You are not alone in your struggle to know how to “handle all of this.” It’s hard for parents when their children choose a different lifestyle.

Try not to confuse gender expression with faith. Try not to confuse sexual orientation with faith. Just because a person is attracted to someone of the same sex does not mean they are not a person of faith. They may believe in God and even worship God in their own way. It sounds like your daughter and grandchild are honest with you. If they are willing, perhaps talking with them about how they experience God in their lives would be a fruitful conversation.

Whatever you do, the best practice is to love. Love your daughter and grandchild. When they express to you what they believe to be true about themselves, they are not asking for your permission. They are entrusting you with what they believe they have learned about themselves. Perhaps that very openness with you is a lesson that you taught them and a sign that they want to share with you what is important to them. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY

May 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5-18
Jn 14:21-26

TUESDAY

May 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:19-28
Jn 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY

May 6
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8

THURSDAY

May 7
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:7-21
Jn 15:9-11

FRIDAY

May 8
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15:12-17

SATURDAY

May 9
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1-10
Jn 15:18-21

SUNDAY

May 10
Sixth Sunday of
Easter
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Pt 3:15-18
Jn 14:15-21

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

HOLY FAMILY, NEW HAMPTON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NW
ST. BONIFACE, IONIA

313 W. Court St. New Hampton, IA
Email Address: clustergrs@gmail.com

GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MON.-THURS. 8 AM-4:30 PM
FRIDAY 8 AM-NOON

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE
www.goodshepherdcluster.com

MISSION STATEMENT

“As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all.”

“Whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do.” (John 14:12)

Jesus calls us to remain in Him, allowing His love to flow through our lives. In sacramental marriage, couples are like branches rooted in Christ, growing together and bearing fruit for His kingdom through love, support, and service to one another. Pray for guidance in nurturing your vocation and encourage others to recognize God’s call.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4:30 PM

Friday 8 AM-Noon

Pastoral Office	641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School	641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion	641-394-2404
Pastor: Rev. Chris Podhajsky	641-394-2105
Principal: Michele Nehls	641-394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover	563-429-2773
Cluster Business Manager: Becky Ptacek-Havlik	
Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez	
Director Faith Formation: Tara Underwood	
Pastoral Assistant: Gladys Christoph	641-330-9223
Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe	
Social Media: Chris Vital	
Custodian: Dave Roethler	
Music Director: Michelle Lau	641-229-6589
Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett	641-394-5407
North Washington Choir: Sharon Heying	641-330-7714
Calvary Cemetery-Don Dixon	319-290-4991
St. Mary's, New Hampton-Mike Pickar	641-430-2446
St. Mary's, N. Washington-Jake Hackman	641-330-6841
St. Boniface-Dave Bonfig	641-394-4703

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation from 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton. Reconciliation may be celebrated on request at St. Boniface, Ionia & Immaculate Conception, North Washington. Sunday Reconciliation from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton.

Weekly Prayer & Faith Sharing & Ministry

1:30 PM-Rosary @ MercyOne Hospital Chapel on Tues.
2-4 PM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Wednesday
4 PM-Midnight-Holy Family-Adoration on Thursday
9-11 AM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Friday
9:30 AM-Coffee Talk after the 8:30 Mass in the Gathering Space
9 AM Bible Study, Pastoral Office on Saturday

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

St. Boniface & Immaculate Conception Parish

Alternate Saturday 6 PM Mass

Holy Family Spanish Mass 1st & 3rd Sunday
11:30 AM

Saturday

4 PM Holy Family, New Hampton

6 PM St. Boniface May 2, 16, 30
June 13, 27, July 11

6 PM Immaculate Conception, May 9, 23
June 6, 20, July 4

Sunday

8 AM & 10 AM Holy Family, New Hampton

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **Kahn Tile Supply LLC-David Leichtman & Linn Shekleton**. Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin.

Baptisms: Please contact Deacon Vic DeSloover @ 563-429-2773.

Marriage: Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

Visiting the Sick or Anointing: If you would like a visit from Fr. Chris, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105. The hospital and nursing homes do not notify us unless a family member requests.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for: Clair Dixon, Peg Kleve, Merion Bormann, Coletta Geerts, Dee Miller, M.K. Jayden, Bob, Dalton, Angelina, Norma Peters, Connie Tiemessen Ellswick, Patty Forkenbrock, Mary K., Yasmin Jimenez (Gustavo wife), Elizabeth Gomez Vasquez, Norbert, Alice & Tom Rasing, Terry Lynn Rausch, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty-PVT. Gabe Macon, SGT. Trevor J. Burgart, SGT Adam J. Burgart, Dylan Usher, Kaleb Macon, SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, SFC. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, Michael Nosbisch, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Dustin Boeding, Paul Langreck

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died:

CLUSTER NEWS

WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED: Riley Ann Schluetter, daughter of Alan & Allison Schluetter. Riley was baptized last weekend by Deacon Vic DeSloover. May God continue to bless this family. Congratulations!!

THANK YOU: "We would like thank you so much for the generous donation towards my unexpected medical bills.

Your generosity along with all the thoughts and prayers are felt and appreciated every day.

Thank you again. Christie (Brahn) Knapp"

BACCALAUREATE MASS: Will be Sunday, May 17, 8 am at Holy Family. We will be celebrating with the graduates and their families. Invitations were mailed this past week if you haven't received yours call the office at 641-394-2105.

CEMETERY DONATIONS: CEMETERY DONATIONS: As of recently, we have begun to receive donations toward the perpetual care of the cemeteries by parishioners. Thank you for making such generous donations! We ask though, that you not submit your donations using your church envelopes. Money is counted based on the envelope that is used. In order to avoid having your donation placed in the wrong fund, we ask that you use a plain envelope with your intentions written on the outside of the envelope. Thank you again!

Sensory-Friendly Masses Coming to the Archdiocese of Dubuque! Epiphany Parish- Holy Family Church, Mason City Saturday, May 16 at 4:00 PM and Saturday, June 20 at 4:00 PM: In an effort to more fully embrace and welcome the members of our Church with physical, intellectual, mental, and developmental challenges, two Sensory-Friendly Masses have been scheduled at Epiphany Parish, Holy Family Church in Mason City (see dates above). A Sensory-Friendly Mass provides a stigma-free environment where individuals with autism and other disabilities or mental health challenges can feel free to move around, express themselves vocally, use noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, fidgets, or alternative seating, and participate meaningfully in the Mass. These Masses will include adaptations such as lower lighting, softer music, a shorter homily, no incense, and use of more simpler (Church approved) language for Scripture and Eucharistic Prayer. All are welcome!



SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
"Life's Short, Eat Dessert First"
FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY HOLY FAMILY PARISH, NEW HAMPTON

11 AM – 1:30 PM
 (OR UNTIL THE ICE CREAM IS GONE)
 Parish Center (a.k.a. Gym)
 Free will donation

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, DESSERTS NEEDED
 PLEASE CALL 641-394-2105
 OR VISIT GOODSHEPHERDCLUSTER.COM

SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM
 DESSERTS
 MAID RITES
 RAFFLE
 BOUNCE HOUSE
 AND DESSERT WALK!

CLUSTER NEWS

THANK YOU: A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your prayers, words of comfort, and kindness at the time of Chuck's death. Special thanks to Father Chris, Deacon Vic, Mike Winter, Ann Bennett, Altar servers and ladies who served dinner.

The Chuck Denner family

OUR CALL TO SHARE-THANK YOU. As Catholics, we're all called to support not only our local parishes and ministries, but also the broader diocesan, national, and global ministries of the Catholic Church.

The bi-annual *Our Call to Share* collections provide us with an easy opportunity live out Jesus' call for us to be as one body through our support of these ministries.

Thank you for your generous support of this spring's four collections making up *Our Call to Share*!

SHARE YOUR GIFTS: Do you enjoy visiting? Is your call to be a Greeter before Mass or taking communion to the homebound? Maybe a Eucharistic Minister? Do you love to share the story? Is Lector your call? We all have many gifts and our parishes has many opportunities. Please call the Pastoral Office @ 641-394-2105 and visit with Marcia if you have any questions, or would be interested in volunteering.

April 26, 2026	Budget Report		
Parish	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	St Boniface
Adult Weekly Envelopes Annual Collection Needed *	\$627,787.00	\$48,667.00	\$42,091.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes Annual Collection Needed to 04.26.2026	\$519,131.69	\$40,243.70	\$34,805.92
Amount Needed Each Week from Adult Weekly Giving Envelopes	\$12,072.83	\$935.90	\$809.44
Amount Received Last Week from Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$16,332.77	\$150.00	\$70.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes - Year to Date Recd to 04.26.2026	\$521,781.74	\$29,891.61	\$33,115.00
Difference	\$2,650.05	-\$10,352.09	-\$1,690.92
Offertory Collected	\$1,092.00	\$56.00	
Hispanic Mass Offertory Collected			

*This is the amount determined to balance each respective church's budget. This includes only the adult budget envelopes and not a reflection of the actual income statement.



Annual Farm Mass

MAY 19, 2026

Immaculate Conception Church, North Washington



TUESDAY, MAY 19 AT 6:00 P.M.

for the blessing of the fields and crops, and prayers for the intercession of Saints Isidore and Marie.



Potluck to follow,
IN THE BASEMENT.
BRING A DISH TO SHARE.



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INTERIM MASS SCHEDULE UPDATE



Fr. Chris Podhajsky is currently working with Fr. Ivan Nienhaus to create the interim Mass schedule that will be used from July 15, 2026 - January 15, 2027.



A draft of the interim Mass schedule will be shared with the parish/cluster pastoral council, deacons, and parish staff in order to gather feedback on the draft.



Fr. Ivan, as incoming pastor, will consider all feedback received in the creation of the interim schedule.



INTERIM MASS SCHEDULES
WILL BE ANNOUNCED
AT ALL MASSES ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE
THE WEEKEND MAY 30/31.



MASS SCHEDULES WILL BE
PUBLISHED
IN ALL BULLETINS
THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 6/7.

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

“Spring into Jesus”

May 6, 1:00-2:30 PM at the New Hampton Methodist Church, Fireside Room, New Hampton. Food, Fun & Fellowship. Songs, trivia, crafts, and more. Free event, donations welcome. Please RSVP to Sandy Claypool. 319-240-9874.

National Day of Prayer: All are welcome to the Chickasaw County Courthouse, **Thursday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m.** for National Day of Prayer. A short prayer service will take place at the Courthouse.

Cookies for Cancer: May special : English Toffee 15/\$10. May flower cutouts \$10/ dozen. Or you may purchase gift certificates \$5.00 and up!!! Contact Rose Ann Schwickerath 641-557-8530. Thanks for your support.

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Advertising Space Available For Rent
Contact Becky at Good Shepherd Cluster
Pastoral Office 641-394-2105

COLLECTIVE MASSES

HOLY FAMILY, MAY 2, AT 4 PM: Wayne Tenge, Jean Gander, Edward Tilkes, Alex Geerts, Dan & Jerry Kuhn, Living & Deceased members of the Joe “Arnie” & Lois Tierney family, Gerry Mishak, Francis & Jean Lowe.

ST. BONIFACE, MAY 2 AT 6 PM: Deb Bonfig, Msgr. Carl Schmitt, Louis & Mary Link, Melvin Rasing, Leonard, Florentine & Paul Huegel, John & Norman Brummond and Kay Koenigsfeld.

HOLY FAMILY, MAY 9, AT 4 PM: Donny Schwickerathy, Ray & Virginia Schwickerath, Leah Schwickerath, don & Edna Shinstine, Francis & Mary Kramer, Patrick & Todd Hoey, and Joseph Hageman.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, MAY 9, AT 6 PM: Vincent “Timmy” & Francella Burgart, Reg Nelson & Living & Deceased members of the Adolph Havlik Sr. Family.

HOLY FAMILY, MAY 10, AT 8 AM: Msgr. Carl Schmitt, Art & Frances Bohr, Emmett & Marianne Meissen, Joanne Brannon, Marge & Duane Quirk, Francis & Jean Lowe, Francis & Theresa Martin, Mac, Jovina & James Scally, and Andrea Burgart.

GOOD SHEPHERD MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

4 PM-Holy Family-Collective

6 PM-St. Boniface-Collective

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 5th Sunday of Easter

8 AM-Holy Family-Mark Schwickerath

10 AM-Holy Family-Joyce Cavanaugh

11 AM-“Life Short, Eat Dessert First”, Parish Center (Gym)

11:30 AM-Holy Family Spanish Mass-For the People of the Cluster

MONDAY-MAY 4, 2026

Bulletin News Due at Noon-**Send to clustergs@gmail.com**

TUESDAY-MAY 5, 2026

5:15 PM-Immaculate Conception-Msgr. Carl Carl Schmitt

WEDNESDAY-MAY 6, 2026

3 PM-NH Rehab- Msgr. Carl L. Schmitt

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

2 PM-Kensington-Lorna Gorman

FRIDAY-MAY 8, 2026

8:30 AM-Holy Family-Leo Steinlage

SATURDAY-MAY 9, 2026

4 PM-Holy Family-Collective

6 PM-Immaculate Conception-Collective

SUN., MAY 10, 2026-6th Sunday of Easter

8 AM-Holy Family-Collective

10 AM-Holy Family-For the People of the Cluster

Good News!

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1–7 / 1 Peter 2:4–9 / John 14:1–12

ANN M. GARRIDO

When I was a child, my parents taught me to pray with my hands pressed together, fingers pointed upward toward God. But somewhere along the way, I learned a different posture for prayer: seated, with my palms facing upward on my lap. It’s a gesture of openness—an acknowledgment that I come before God in humble need, ready to receive whatever he wants to give.

In today’s gospel, Philip approaches Jesus in a similar stance of openness. “Show us the Father,” he says, “and that will be enough for us” (John 14:8). Jesus responds that Philip has already seen the Father because Jesus’ words and actions are the Father’s words and actions. Philip needs no more—he has already received “enough.”

Sometimes, I need this reminder myself. I long for a new insight into God that perhaps one more book or one more lecture will give me. Don’t get me wrong: lifelong learning is a wonderful thing, and there is always more of God to discover! But it is important to acknowledge that, like Philip, I have already come to know the Father through Jesus, and everything I need to live the Christian life is already in place. Rather than more knowledge, it is a question of putting into action what I’ve been taught.

Of late, when I pray, I have embraced a new prayer posture: turning my hands downward, resting my palms on my knees. It helps me remember that with Jesus as my shepherd, I “shall not want.” I already have all I need. ●