

Daily Readings

Week of March 27, 2022

Sunday, 3/27: Jos 5: 9a, 10-12/Ps 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7/

2 Cor 5: 17-21/Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Monday, 3/28: Is 65: 17-21/Ps 30: 2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b/

Jn 4: 43-54

Tuesday, 3/29: Ez 47: 1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5: 1-16

Wednesday, 3/30: Is 49: 8-15/Ps 145: 8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5: 17-30

Thursday, 3/31: Ex 32: 7-14/Ps 106: 19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5: 31-47

Friday, 4/1: Wis 2: 1a, 12-22/Ps 34: 17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23/Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, 4/2: Jer 11: 18-20/Ps 7: 2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7: 40-53



SACRED HEART

“RETURN TO ME &

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT”

309 Church Street • PO Box 98

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Mass Schedule: 11:00am Sunday

www.sacredheartoj.org



March 27, 2022

4th Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Ministers

Schedule for April 3, 2022

Lector: CCD

Greeters/Gifts: CCD

Servers: CCD/Kevin

Money Counters: Mary Ann M/Mary Ann K

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Mary Ann M/Margo

Today's Mass Intention:

Dennis, David, Lawrence & Chuck Koppes

Priest Visit to the Homebound

If you are sick or homebound or know someone who is, and would like Fr. Andrew to visit and pray, contact the main office at 319-320-5003 or email Fr. Andrew at DBQ137@dbqarch.org.

Prayer Corner

- Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Leonard Lasack, Marilyn Stevenson, Derek Denniston, Julie Ahrendsen
- Archbishop Jackels, Fr. Andrew

Sacred Heart Office Hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri.

10:00am-11:00am

Phone: 319-320-5003

St. John the Baptist (Mt. Vernon)

Office Hours:

Tues.: 8:00am-5:00pm, Fri.: 7:00am-3:30pm

Phone: 319-895-6246

St. Isidore (Springville) Office Hours:

Wed. & Thurs.: 10:00am-3:00pm

Phone: 319-854-6141

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah:

DBQ137@dbqarch.org

Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Swan: dbq155sec@dbqarch.org

Phone: 319-320-5003

Bookkeeper:

Sue Zeller: dbq155bk@dbqarch.org

Parish Council Chairperson:

Blain Crock: blain.crock@gmail.com

Finance Council Chairperson:

Kris Leeper: kjlgjl@hotmail.com

Sanctuary Guild Chairperson:

Mary Ann Mostaert:

mamostaert@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education:

Sarah Rissler:

sarahrissler10@gmail.com

Music Ministry Leaders:

Carmie Nowachek:

nowachekfarms@hotmail.com

Karen Bachman: wlbach@netins.net

Website, Bulletin & Facebook Administrator:

Colleen Coon: collcoon@gmail.com

Parish Council Members:

Sarah Rissler

Monte Ahrendsen

Jon Eganhouse

Mary Ann Mostaert

Finance Council Members:

Donna Schewe

Brett Moonman

Ron Nowachek



TO OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS

Fourth Week in Lent – *“We belong to Him.”*

This week’s gospel passage is a familiar but challenging one. Taking aside the brief introduction that sets the tone for the substantive story, the entire lengthy passage deals with the phases of conversion that the prodigal son had to undergo to reach ultimate justification by his father.

For some unimaginable reason, the scribes, who were the interpreters of the law, and the Pharisees, who were the rigid observers of the decrees and interpretations derived from the law, often perceived Jesus as promoting sin and disobedience of the law.

In the passage for this week, they even classified him as a sinner because He “welcomes sinners and eats with them.” They became disturbed and troubled by the fact that Jesus associated Himself with the tax collectors and sinners. It’s as if one could say that because doctors associate with people who are sick to cure and heal them, doctors are sick too.

Yet the substance of the story Jesus told offers a rather revealing understanding of God and how He approaches us. In the unfolding of the story of the prodigal son, it is revealed to us that in God’s heart and mind, every single person deserves His justification.

What is justification? It is the reality that all of us, who are sinners, have become just because of Jesus. Our destiny in this world has been changed. We may still rise and fall with some personal weakness and sin. However, fundamentally, we are just; we are loved by God who keeps His assurances to us that “we belong to Him.”

An important take away from the gospel is the understanding that God’s grace is extended to all to guide us in this world of struggle and frailties.

Taking the perspective of the father in the story, we may come to another level of understanding that God never forces people to do anything, but rather uses elements, circumstances, and moments in our lives to open our minds and hearts by grace, in providing guidance and wisdom.

Needless to underscore that Jesus’s intent in the gospel is to introduce the scribes and the Pharisees to the true nature of His Father, whose mercy knows no bounds, and who is constantly seeking to justify His children as they are drawn to Him.

When we view the story of the Israelites in the first reading in light of the gospel, we have another appreciation of how God’s leading is constant, limitless, if we but pay attention.

If we consider the fact that it took the Israelites forty years to reach the promised land and to eat for the first time the fruits of the land, we come to understand that God never abandons His intention and plans for us; He carries us through even the travails of this life. In the same way, we are called to return to Him, and as Pope Francis reminds us in his Lenten message that we “not grow tired ...” – not on this Lenten, or life journey.

- Guild Meeting is April 4th at 6:30pm. All ladies are welcome!

- Please consider donating Easter flowers to help decorate our altar during the Easter season. If you are unable to purchase the flowers but would still like to donate flowers please call Doris Denniston @ 319-480-6963 or Karen Bachman @ 319-981-3906.



- We will be returning to our custom of serving refreshments after Mass, generally on the 1st Sunday of the month. Please look in your pigeonhole in the hall for the schedule. The person who is the 1st on the list is the chairperson and should contact the other people on the list. If you're unable to serve, try and exchange dates with someone & let your chairperson know. Refreshments should be easy to serve and eat. We hope you will all be able to participate and enjoy some social time with your church family!
- The next CCD class is Sunday, April 3rd at 9:45am, followed by our “Children’s Mass”.
- Please consider volunteering for one or all of our ministries we have here at Sacred Heart. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, sing in the choir, altar server, or be a greeter and gift bearer. Many options that we would love and invite everyone to partake in.
- Reconciliation opportunities during Lent: Friday, April 8 @ 5:00pm-6:30pm & Sunday, April 10 @ 11:30am-12:30pm.
- Reconciliation opportunities in the Deanery: March 20 @ 7:00pm @ St. Elizabeth with individual confessions, April 2 @ 10:30am @ St. Joseph with Communal Penance, and April 7 @ 7:00pm @ St. Jude with Communal Penance.
- Since our Mass time will be changing, so will the time of CCD! Sunday, May 1st CCD will be at **9:15am** with our last Children’s Mass for the year following at 10:30am. Sunday, May 15th CCD is at 9:15am and after Mass there will be a CCD Celebration @ the Rissler Ranch! Please join the CCD family and friends at a lunch celebration at the home of Matt & Sarah Rissler. Please let Sarah know if you’ll be able to make it. They will have hotdogs, tableware and drinks and ask each family to bring one side to share. The celebration will be outdoors (in a barn in case of rain) and there will be games and activities for everyone!

Please have all bulletin submissions to Colleen Coon by Wednesday PM

Email: collcoon@gmail.com