

Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
Sacred Heart
Ss Philip & James

Mission Statement

A family of God constituted
by the Holy Eucharist and
strengthened by the Holy
Spirit to make God known,
loved and served.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am
the resurrection and
the life; whoever
believes in me, even
if he dies, will live."
- Jn 11:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Churches:

SS Philip & James Church

606 Fulton Street— P.O Box 7

Grand Mound, IA 52751

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

903 Main St., P.O Box 127

Lost Nation, IA 52254

670 Mill Street

Toronto, IA 52777

Sacred Heart Church

309 Church Street

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Web www.sacredheartoj.org

Cluster Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Telephone: 563-847-2271

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday 12:00 noon

(unless otherwise noted).

- Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the cluster office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact Pastor 9 to 12 months prior to wedding date.

Our Lent So Far

We are five weeks already into the season of Lent. Did you realize that? Of course, this has been a completely different Lent altogether. It is as if someone gave us a pause on our church life when no one needed it and we are waking up to that reality of staying away from what we love most. I believe when this is all over and we see one another again we will be able to tell our stories together. In the meantime, let us keep our focus on our journey, practice social distancing and pray for one another to overcome the 'corona-evil' that is inflicting so much distress on the world. Please let's pray for one another.

Commendable efforts:

Since our social distancing started during the past few days, I have seen a lot of parishioner-initiatives such as organizing online Rosary, Lectio Divina and sharing a word of encouragement here and there. Good job to all such initiatives! My joy is that such efforts will help to keep our faith active throughout this time of solitude. So long as you do not feel isolated from your faith, we are grateful to God. Our Lenten opportunity for conversion, renewal and transformation is still in force. How far have

you gone? Have you been able to give up anything this year? I guess I gave up driving...It's really not too late to start!

Individual Confession:

Pope Francis said last week that if you could not reach a priest to have your confession, pray to your Father and ask him for forgiveness. Repent from your heart and the God who sees all that is done in secret will forgive you your sins. Surely, when things return to normal you can always see a priest and take things from there.

Watching the Mass on TV:

Thanks to God, there is a lot of platforms that shows the Holy Mass and other devotionals. I guess the most famous is EWTN's daily Mass. I will say that you should try to be a 'distant participant' of the Mass, when you are watching, by joining in the prayers, keeping the postures (like standing when you are to stand etc.). It helps you to participate fully and consciously of the holy Mass from your room. You could also sit throughout if that helps you to concentrate better.

What I plan to do:

I have to undergo an electronic conversion this time round. I intend to record one of my daily private Masses to upload on the various platforms. Last week, I tried but in the end my file was a little too large to upload. Let's see what this week brings!

A true hunger for Divine Worship?

It is natural that you are missing Church gatherings. It's painful that we are not able to meet. How long is this going to be? My little piece of counsel is from St. Matthew: 'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will have their fill'. Please pray for a holy hunger for divine worship. A hunger for God helps us to appreciate the Church, the word of God, the Sacraments and prayer. The next time you are in Church it will feel differently, thanks to a holy desire for God which you have started in your soul.

Do I have any obligations towards my Church?

As God blesses you, please remember to continue to support your Church financially, for God blesses a cheerful giver.

Fr. Francis Odoom

God Is Good!!

"We've never lived in a time like this. This is unprecedented, and things are getting worse!" Turn on any channel to hear the news at night and this is what you hear. Yet we who are familiar with the Bible know that there have been times like this before. The Bible has many stories about pestilence, fears, and dark times, but these stories also remind us that even though these problems are great, God is greater.

This is a time to feed our faith. If we feed our faith, our fears will diminish. But we have to do intentional things to feed our faith. We need to open our hearts and our Bibles. God is faithful and He knows us. He formed us in our mother's womb (Psalm 139). He created us, He saved us, and He

called us. He knows how to work all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Jesus told us to love one another (John 13:34). So let's focus on random acts of kindness. Send a note to someone or pick up the phone and make a call. Let them know you care about them. Think about those who are in isolation in our nursing homes or in their own homes. Look at our prayer list in the bulletin and reach out to those people. The next time you're in the grocery store, thank the people working there for all they are doing to keep us supplied. Send a note to your doctor and medical workers thanking them for their service to our communities. And don't forget about

our police force and firemen. These people are doing all they can to keep us safe.

God is good and we need to remind ourselves of what He has done in our lives. During these difficult times, it might be a little harder to see His goodness, but we need to have courage. We need to put our quivering hands in His big, steady hands and trust Him. He is the same God who has been there for us in the past. He hasn't changed. We need to make a choice to trust Him. Then we will become people who purvey hope instead of fear.

Colleen Burke
Evangelization Team

PARISH CLUSTER NEWS—

Online Praying

When we are to be distancing ourselves physically from our brothers and sisters, it can make the practice of communal prayer or bible study feel lonely or expendable. But it doesn't have to be this way. Given the online communities that we utilize most every day, we can shift our prayer life or our bible studies online! I have begun a private prayer group on Facebook called **Pray for Peace** that I invite all of this cluster community to join. To do so, find me (Sarah Rissler) on Facebook. Send me a private message and I will add you to **Pray for Peace**. I am leading a weekly Lectio Divina (divine reading) in which I guide the community through the practice of reading a short bible passage, reflection, and prayer. I'm encouraging friends in this group to lead prayers, the rosary, and bible study, or anything that you feel called to lead. It is time to disconnect from the physical presence of community in order to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. It is time to connect in a different way, online, with those who make us happy, who share our faith, who are ready to pray with us. Let's do this, Church Family! I'll "see" you online :) ~Sarah Rissler, Sacred Heart Parishioner

With the Lord
there is
mercy and
redemption.

PSALM 130



GOD OPENS NEW POSSIBILITIES

COVID-19: A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY

For all who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,

We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,

We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

AMEN

Remember—Wednesday is
April Fools' Day!

Prayer of Pope Francis

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of
hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in
Jesus' pain, keeping your faith
firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman
People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will
provide so that, as in Cana of
Galilee, we may return to joy
and feasting after this time of
trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the
Father and to do as we are told
by Jesus, who has taken upon
himself our sufferings and
carried our sorrows to lead us,
through the cross, to the joy of
the resurrection.
Amen



OLHR Friends of Faith teachers
handed out or mailed at home pack-
ets to use during our time of clo-
sure. Sue Zeller is shown here prac-
ticing safe distancing.



DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/
Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-
62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn
8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn
8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf.
10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt
26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

Cluster Parish Prayer List

1. **Our Shepherds:**
Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Archbishop
Michael Jackels, Fr. Francis Odoom,
Deacon Mike Shiel
2. **The Aged & Infirm:**
 - Dick Nodurft, Melvin Duwa, Natalie Regan, Elmer & Dorothy Hasenmiller, Grace Kinney, Carolyn Schwien, & Greg Schwien
 - Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Dennis Koppes, Wendy Larive, Jerica Christensen, Marilyn Stevenson, Rhonda Murphy, Leonard Lasack.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

ONLINE MASS OPTIONS

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Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses— www.vatican.va

Catholic TV Mass—
<https://www.watchthemass.com/>

EWTN Daily Mass—
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception— <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Daily Mass on YouTube - [Catholic Mass Today](#)

Archbishop Jackels online for Mass each Sunday morning at 9:00 am until public Masses resume: www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Facebook—Mass, family rosary, praying together, etc.—Follow the page to join.

St. Joseph Catholic Church on Facebook— Mass—Follow the page to join.

For your information

1. All of the envelopes with last week's bulletin were sealed with water, not saliva.
2. Send all bulletin ideas to the office email by Tuesday.
3. OLHR—Do not use the Parish Nurse envelop. We no longer have a parish nurse group.

LIFE



“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.”

JOHN 11:25