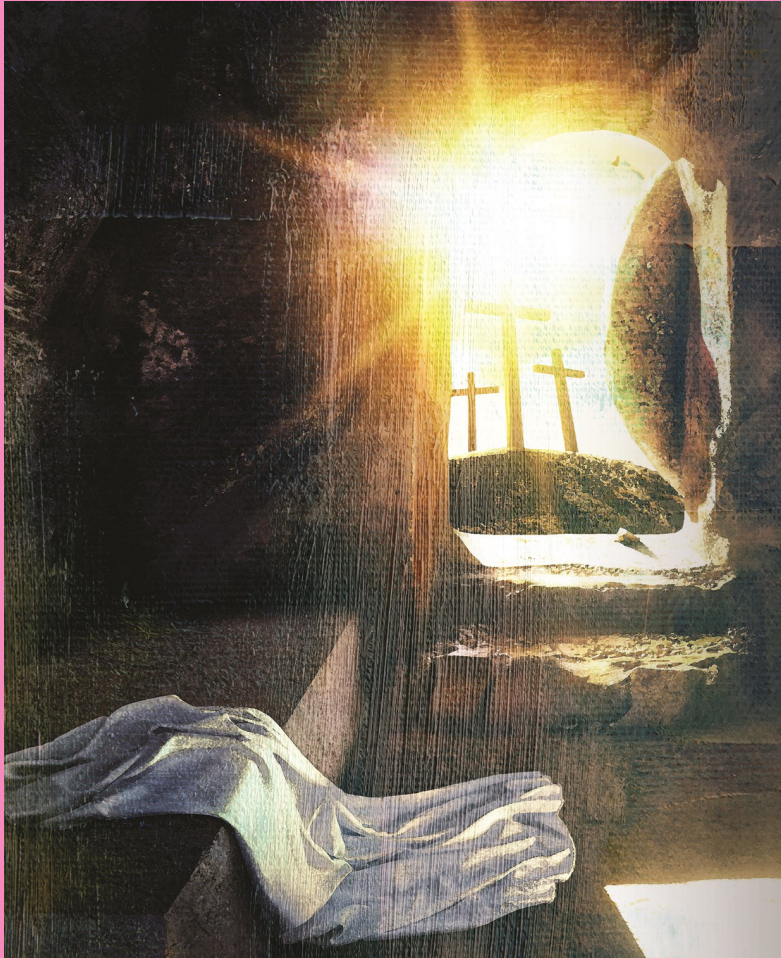


Holy Family Parish Cluster

April 4, 2021



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

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

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Sts Philip & James Grand Mound

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Cluster Office Hours

Due to the pandemic the office has limited hours. Please call or email if you need anything.

Bulletin Deadline
Tuesday 12:00 noon
(unless otherwise noted).

Mission Statement

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

Administration:

Pastor: Rev. Francis V. Odoom
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Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto

903 Main St.
P.O Box 127
Lost Nation, IA 52254
670 Mill Street
Toronto, IA 52777

Sacred Heart Oxford Junction

309 Church Street
Oxford Junction, IA 52323
Web: www.sacredheartoj.org

From Father Odoom

Happy Easter, Family!

The stone across the tomb:

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb on Easter morning and saw that the stone had been rolled away. First was the rolled-away stone, then came the empty tomb then the vision of Jesus in the garden. Looks like little steps, right? Little steps of faith always bring us greater blessings. One of Mary Magdalene's concerns as she made it to the tomb early in the morning, I imagine, was the stone across the tomb. She could not figure out who could move that for her. She thought about it and worried, but she went defying all mental obstacles. For some of us, the stone may represent the most insurmountable difficulty of life, one that keeps us up at night. Just as Mary Magdalene was given the sign of the *rolled-away stone*, may the annual celebration of the resurrection of Christ renew your hope that your own stones may be rolled away along with that of Christ.

Do not be afraid, he is alive!

On the morning of Easter, the Angel that kept watch over Jesus' tomb told the women not to be afraid because Jesus is risen; he is alive! We all need to hear these words again. Be not afraid...the Lord is risen. When the pandemic hit last year, we were all at a huge loss. Our lives were changed in ways we never imagined. Thankfully, we now have the vaccines, and we remain hopeful we shall overcome this together some day. God's word tells us not to be afraid.

In our Cluster:

With mixed feelings we are about to see our cluster parishes go their separate ways. It feels sad to think our efforts in this project have ended rather abruptly. But the good news is this new arrangement looks promising. The task continues and the Lord is calling all of us to continue the good work we are doing. Each of our cluster parishes has wonderful members to help our respective parishes succeed in the mission entrusted to us by the risen Lord. We are thankful to God for how far we have come together. We shall possibly come up with a way of celebrating our common blessings before July 1st.

Easter blessings!

Fr. Francis Odoom



ALLELUIA

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

These are the words to an old familiar song we often sing on Easter morning, belting out each and every "Alleluia" because it's been over forty days since we last proclaimed it. Why is that? Throughout the liturgical year, the Catholic Church makes certain changes to the Mass to reflect the liturgical season. Next to the change in the color of the priest's vestments, the absence of the Alleluia during Lent is probably the most obvious.

The Alleluia is Hebrew, meaning "praise Yahweh." Traditionally, it has been seen as the word of praise used by choirs of angels, as they worship around the throne of God in Heaven. It is a term of great joy, and our use of the Alleluia during Mass is a way of participating in the angels' worship. It also serves to remind us that although this life may be filled with trials, sacrifice, and struggles, there is an incredible joy that awaits us when we reach heaven.

In order to emphasize that journey, the Church, during Lent, removes the Alleluia from the Mass. We no longer sing with the choirs of angels; instead, we acknowledge our sins and practice repentance so that one day we may again have the privilege of worshiping God as the angels do. The word Alleluia, given its positive connotation, opposes the themes of Lent, so by removing it we are asked to symbolically enter into the Lenten themes of repentance, patience, anticipation, and sorrow. By not singing Alleluia we greatly look forward to the next opportunity to proclaim it.

That joyous day comes this weekend on Easter Sunday, or rather at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, when Father proclaims a triple Alleluia before he reads the Gospel, and everyone present responds with a triple Alleluia. The Lord is risen; our joy is complete; and, along with the angels and saints in Heaven, we all greet the risen Lord with joyful acclamations of "Alleluia!"

It's a beautiful tradition of our faith. Fasting from "Alleluia" during Lent helps us appreciate the depth and meaning of the word. So, this weekend let's joyfully proclaim "Alleluia," and celebrate the fact that death no longer has any power over us. Jesus has died and risen from the dead, and by conquering death, he has opened the way of salvation for all of us who believe in him. Alleluia!

Colleen Burke
Evangelization Team

**We cannot give up
in the face of evil.
God is Love and he has
defeated evil through
Christ's death and
resurrection.**

— Pope Francis —



WEEKLY ANTIPHONS

Entrance Antiphon

Tuesday 4/6

He gave them the water of wisdom to drink; it will be made strong in them and will not be moved; it will raise them up for ever, alleluia.

Wednesday 4/7

Come, you blessed of my Father; receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, alleluia.

Thursday 4/8

They praised in unison your conquering hand, O Lord, for wisdom opened mouths that were mute and gave eloquence to the tongues of infants, alleluia.

Friday 4/9

The Lord led his people in hope, while the sea engulfed their foes, alleluia.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Weekly Recessional Antiphon

The Lord has led you into a land flowing with milk and honey, that the law of the Lord may always be on your lips, alleluia.

From Words Among Us



Cluster Parish Prayer List

1. **Our Shepherds:**

Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Archbishop
Michael Jackels, Fr. Francis Odoom,
Deacon Mike Shiel

2. **The Aged & Infirm:**

- Melvin Duwa, Gloria Kagemann, Grace Kinney, & Dick Nodurft
- Betty Anderson, Jerica Christensen, Rich Kleineck, Leonard Lasack, Paul Lasack & Marilyn Stevenson

MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Place	Intention
Saturday 4/3	5:00 pm	Lost Nation	For the People
Sunday 4/4	8:00 am	Grand Mound	For the People
	10:00 am	Oxford Junction	For the People
Tuesday 4/6	8:00 am	Grand Mound	Holy Name Society
Wednesday 4/7	5:00 pm	Grand Mound	Richard Nichols Family
Thursday 4/8	5:00 pm	Lost Nation	Scott Benischek
Friday 4/9	8:00 am	Oxford Junction	Glen Regennitter
Saturday 4/10	5:00 pm	Toronto	James Kedley
Sunday 4/11	8:00 am	Grand Mound	Howard, Monica & Hubert Green
	10:00 am	Oxford Junction	Alverda Clasen

Dope Francis Prayer Intention For April

Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

DAILY READINGS

Readings for the week of April 4, 2021

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3