

# Holy Family Parish Cluster

## May 2, 2021



## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.”  
- Jn 15:1-2

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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**Deacon: Michael Sheil**

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**Administrative Assistant**

Christine Meyer

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### **Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto**

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P.O Box 127  
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### **Sacred Heart Oxford Junction**

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## Share Your Faith

Pope Francis says, “Evangelizing is the Church’s mission. It is not the mission of only a few, but it is mine, yours, and ours... We must all be evangelizers, especially with our life!” As Catholics, we are called to respond to this mission. However, to fulfill it, most of us need to deepen our understanding or our faith because we can’t evangelize anyone else until we, ourselves, are evangelized. After all, we can’t share with others what we do not possess ourselves.

Every one of us, by virtue of our Baptism, is on a life-long journey of faith. This means that we must not only attend Mass, but we must also seek to learn and understand more about what Christ and His Church teach. The more we know, the more we are able to love Him and serve Him. In order to keep our faith alive, we need to keep growing.

Throughout the book of Acts, we are told that the disciples talked about Jesus wherever they went, evangelizing through relationships. They knew there was strength and value in being around others who believed the same things. Every time Jesus sent out disciples or apostles on a mission, he did so in groups. Even the great evangelist St. Paul was always with someone. In today’s first reading when he met with some resistance from other disciples, Barnabas reached out and took “charge of him and brought him to the apostles.”

God designed us all to need fellowship. He wants each of us to be in a group of people that we can trust to support us and speak the truth to us. God encourages our connection with others so that we can grow spiritually. Others help us make sense of our faith because talking about our faith brings clarity. Hearing what others have to say brings insight and helps us grow in our relationship with God. When we share our faith with others, we deepen our own faith and help others grow in theirs.

So, we need to look for opportunities to discuss our faith with others. It might start out small, like with our own family members, discussing the Scripture we heard at Mass on the way home in the car or at the kitchen table during a meal together. Then we might look for opportunities to reach out to others beyond our families, like people we see at Mass every weekend, couples who have children the same age as ours, or people we’ve known for years but with whom we have never really talked about our faith. We can arrange for times to get together with them, maybe over coffee or a meal, with the specific intent of discussing Scripture or the Church’s teachings.

In the Bible, we see people who, like us, doubted, prayed, worried, feared, rejected God, then turned back to him over and over again. As humans we haven’t changed much in 2,000 years, and it’s comforting to know God still speaks to us, works through us, and reveals Himself to us today. Our spiritual journey is never a path we are meant to walk on our own; it is something that we share with others who believe what we believe. That’s how we become “intentional disciples,” those who not only listen and learn, but also practice Jesus’s teachings, and thereby work together towards the mission we have been given!

Colleen Burke  
Evangelization Team



For their Confirmation Service project, Delaney and Madison (OLHR) made tie fleece blankets to be donated to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace", a non profit organization that provides beds and bedding for local children in need.

Thank You Holy Spirit for this Great opportunity (Sacrament of Confirmation) to become closer to God and to show love for our church. Help us Holy Spirit to continue to grow in our Faith and to help others around us who are in most need. We pray for each other that we will continue to live our lives that will help us to be the best versions of ourselves. Please stay with us and guide us to make us strong in our Faith by going to Mass, daily prayer and reading the Bible. Fill us with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Written by SSPJ Confirmation Class  
2021

# **Holy Family Cluster Religious Education**

Religious Education for the Holy Family Cluster families had a new look this year. All parishes had some type of virtual learning mixed with a few face-to-face gatherings that followed social distancing recommendations. We celebrated Confirmation, Reconciliation, and First Holy Communion. The following information was collected from Directors of Religious Education (DRE) programs and teachers that helped with preparation for the sacraments.

According to SSPJ Confirmation teacher, Bill Tague, Sts. Philip and James' Confirmation Program takes two years of preparation. The first year they worked through several books, bible history, Church teaching and devotions. The second year the diocese required the curriculum to be virtual because of COVID. In Bill's words, "We had been considering adding Mathew Kelly's Decision Point Program to our Confirmation preparation. This push for virtual teaching helped us make the leap. I enjoyed the Decision Point program; I was able to work several sessions ahead of the class but essentially went through it with them. Students would complete videos and exercises each week and then meet on zoom on Wednesday nights for 30 minutes to discuss the lessons. Maureen Schrader, DRE for SSPJ, participated in the class and we offered it to the sponsors of the candidates as well."

Bev Brauer, DRE for OLHR and Confirmation teacher, reported, "At OLHR our small group was able to meet once or twice a month on Wednesday afternoons since both of their schools had early outs. This worked very well, avoiding their farm chores and work schedules. Their parents took on the responsibility of doing "catch up" sessions and meeting with Father Francis for Confession and interviews." Barb Burmeister shared the duty of confirmation sponsor.

Dena Jensen, Sacred Heart DRE and Confirmation mentor, noted, "While transitioning to online classes posed many challenges, the kids adapted and participated willingly. The Chosen curriculum was already online with amazing resources. Although there were many in-person opportunities that this class missed, I am confident that many faith seeds were planted and they will continue to find nourishment with their church community."

SSPJ's First Holy Communion teacher, Deb Olson said, "Our year-long preparation was via Zoom sessions. We had 30 minutes session every Wednesday with parents attending. Our focus in the fall was on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and they received the sacrament during the Advent season. Starting in January, the focus was on First Holy Eucharist. There were some assignments, but we mostly asked parents to help with Daily Prayers. We had a First Communion Retreat in April prior to the First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday, April 18th."

Sarah Rissler, teacher at SH, shared that classes were held via Zoom, every Wednesday throughout the academic year for between 15 to 20 minutes per class. She sent craft-like materials to students by snail mail every few weeks that centered on practicing prayers and coloring Christian-themed pages for artwork to decorate their homes. Sarah shared, "Every class began with a prayer. Then we discussed an objective (for example, how do we feel God in our lives?) or read and discussed a story. We practiced something practical like a prayer or receiving Communion, and concluded with a prayer." Sarah, also, mentioned how helpful the parents were during the class.

Several other teachers told how different it was to meet virtually and how much they appreciated the parents' involvement and help. We are lucky to have such wonderful DREs, teachers, students and parents in our Cluster Family! We thank God for all our blessings!

Sacred Heart is looking for an administrative assistant/secretary for Fr Bahl which will pay \$20 per hour and a cleaning person for the church, which will pay \$15 per hour. Both jobs will entail approximately 2 hours per week more or less depending on events going on. Please contact Mary Ann Mostaert -563-889-0171 or Blain Crock—563-889-0268 for job descriptions and questions.

Sanctuary Guild meeting May 3 at 6:00 pm in the church library.

The St. Philip & James Social Action Committee would like to thank the parishioners for their generous donations to our yearly Lenten Baby Bassinet collection. Thank you Michele Traver of Thrivent Financial for helping make the Action Teams funds possible again this year! The items were given to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Clinton.

*Prayer is the bridge between panic and peace!*



## WEEKLY ANTIPHONS

### Entrance Antiphon

#### Tuesday 5/4

Sing praise to our God, all you who fear God, both small and great, for now salvation and strength have come, and the power of his Christ, alleluia.

#### Wednesday 5/5

Let my mouth be filled with your praise, that I may sing aloud; my lips shall shout for joy, when I sing to you, alleluia.

#### Thursday 5/6

Let us sing to the Lord, for he has gloriously triumphed. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation, alleluia.

#### Friday 5/7

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honor, alleluia.

### Weekly Recessional Antiphon

You have been buried with Christ in Baptism, through which you also rose again by faith in the working of God,

From Words Among Us

### Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat

Website -<https://www.chmiowa.org/retreat> and click on the Retreat Calendar on the left-hand side for more details, or call 563-336-8414 or email [olpretreat@gmail.com](mailto:olpretreat@gmail.com). Make sure to register to receive the zoom link.

Wed., May 5—10:00am—Free In-person:

**Mother's Day Mass at The Prairie Leader:** Fr. Dennis Martin

Thurs., May 6 | 6:30pm -8:00pm Free Online:

**Parents and Guardians: Telling Their Story of Covid-19**

**Community Dedication for the new DeWitt Referral Center will be held May 4 at 5:30 pm behind Peteren Hagge in DeWitt.**

### **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 5/1	5:00 pm	Lost Nation	Dean Schneider
Sunday 5/2	8:00 am 10:00 am	Grand Mound Oxford Junction	George Green Monk & Margurite Coon
Tuesday 5/4	8:00 am	Grand Mound	Holy Name Society
Wednesday 5/5	5:00 pm	Grand Mound	Leo Trimble Family
Thursday 5/6	5:00 pm	Lost Nation	Scott Benischek
Friday 5/7	8:00 am	Oxford Junction	Glen Reginnitter
Saturday 5/8	5:00 pm	Toronto	Dan Lange
Sunday 5/9	8:00 am 10:00 am	Grand Mound Oxford Junction	Richard Vens Rosine Reginnitter

### Dope Francis Prayer Intention For May

**The World of Finance**  
**Let us pray that those in charge**  
**of finance will work with**  
**governments to regulate the**  
**financial sphere and protect**  
**citizens from its dangers.**

### DAILY READINGS

#### Readings for the week of May 2, 2021

**Sunday:** Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

**Monday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

**Next Sunday:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4/Jn 15:9-17