

Holy Family Parish Cluster

June 27, 2021



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep."
- Mk 5:36bc, 38-39

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

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Sacred Heart Oxford Junction

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

For all that has been we give thanks!

I want to use this opportunity to thank you all: beloved parishioners, staff, ministries, committees, teams, support groups as well as those who have continued to play diverse roles behind the scenes to bring us to this stage of our experience as a Church family of God. This is our last Sunday liturgy as a parish cluster. From next Sunday, our three parishes: Our Lady of Holy Rosary (Lost Nation & Toronto), SS Philip and James (Grand Mound), and Sacred Heart (Oxford Junction) will be joining different Church clusters. Our Lady of Holy Rosary will be going with Delmar cluster, SS Philip and James will be joining St. Joe's, DeWitt and Sacred Heart will be going with Mount Vernon. We welcome Fr. Stephen Page, the new Pastor of SS Philip and James and Fr. Andrew Awortwe-Mensah, the new Pastor for Sacred Heart. Our experience of working together should guide us in the new clusters we are joining, always bearing in mind that this is never about any of us but rather that the gospel may continue in our midst.

I started my priestly ministry here six years ago (May, 2015) on the 5th Sunday of Easter. As I reached out for my homily notes, I found that the theme was 'what fruits are growing on the tree'. I had preached about bearing fruits as followers of Christ. I used the example of Apostle Barnabas who was nicknamed son of encouragement because of how he always encouraged his colleagues. Barnabas was the one who jumped to the defense of Paul after the disciples doubted his claims of having been converted to Jesus. Barnabas motivated the disciples to hold firm to their conviction in Jesus. As I reflect now at the end of six years of this experience, it looks so clear to me that God was entrusting to me the ministry of encouragement. He wanted me to encourage you in your faith. God wanted me to uplift you. That is why he brought me from Africa to serve you. My heart is filled with thankful praise for all that has been.

When I came among you, you did not make me feel like a stranger in your midst. You all became my family. You were mother, father, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, cousin, nephew, niece, friend to me. I thank you sincerely and I pray you will make our new pastors get a good taste of our identity as a family of God. For four out of six years, we have rallied around the vision: A family of God constituted by the Holy Eucharist and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to make God known, loved, and served. I cherished the great sense of community and family that bound our individual Churches and our members together. To show that our vision has become our identity, I exhort you to continue the mission of Christ by loving your new parishes and living as members of the family of God. Until we meet again, here on earth, and finally in the kingdom of heaven, I thank you once again and ask you to pray for me as I resolve to do the same for you. God's abundant blessings upon you!

Fr. Francis V. Odoom
Outgoing Pastor





Fear is an emotion that can distort our thinking and can cause us to act irrationally. We fear what we do not understand, what we have no control over, or what we believe will harm us. When we feel like this, we can take comfort in knowing that God is in control. Faith in God is what allows us to experience stability in the midst of instability.

Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus says “have faith” or “your faith has saved you.” In today’s gospel he says to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” (Mark 5:36) As Christians we must have faith. Faith in the unknown. Faith in the unseen. Faith in the confusing. Faith when it counts.

Sometimes God leads us in strange directions. He commands us to change the life we are living, to challenge those around us, to be called to a certain place or a certain decision that we might not typically make on our own. He calls us to change our lives in ways that doesn’t make sense. But that’s the whole point. His plan is not our plan. And He calls us to follow Him, and to have faith...in Him!

When we are called to do something by God, we must trust in Him. And we must do it. We must put aside our fears and doubts, our negativity and the

negativity of others and trust in something greater than ourselves, no matter where it may lead. We must trust that He will bring us where we are meant to be. God wants us to be pushed out of our comfort zones. He wants to bring us into the direction of following Him, even when (and especially when) that isn’t what the world is telling us.

God sometimes asks us to do things that make non-believers wrinkle their noses, roll their eyes, or shrug their shoulders in disbelief. We cannot be dissuaded by that. We must have faith in His plan, a plan that doesn’t always make sense to our human standards, but a plan that is meant to serve others, serve Him, and serve the world around us. He won’t ever leave us or lead us astray. He loves each and every one of us, His creation.

On this, the last weekend of our Holy Family Cluster, we must remember that God knows everything we are going through right now. If we are feeling uncertainty about our future, we must not be afraid. We must trust that God has our best interests in mind, and He will forever stand by our side. We need to follow His path and trust that He knows best...because He does.

Colleen Burke
Evangelization Team

Holy Family Cluster News

OLHR SAVE THE DATE! COMMUNITY BIBLE SCHOOL!

July 12, 13, 14 from 5:00-7:30

More details coming soon!

We will be calling on our parishioners to help with food, activities and donations. Thanks! Ashley M, Kristin B, Trish H

From—Sacred Heart -Thanks to Wendy Swan for painting the statue of the Blessed Virgin for our outdoor rose garden. Thanks to Sharon Miller for providing the mulch for the rose garden and rectory planter.

The next Sanctuary Guild meeting is July 12 at 6:30 pm in the church library.

School Supplies Collection

The **St. Philip & James Social Action** committee will have its annual collection of school supplies through Sunday, August 22, 2021. These items will be distributed to the Calamus-Wheatland and Ekstrand Community elementary schools. A basket will be in the back of the church. Thank you for your generous donations!

WEEKLY ANTIPHONS

Entrance Antiphon

Tuesday 6/29

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Wednesday 6/30

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

Weekly Recessional Antiphon

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;
be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O
God, my

From Words Among Us

Savior!
ior!

MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Place	Intention
Saturday 6/26	5:00 pm	Toronto	Tim Burmeister
Sunday 6/27	8:00 am 10:00 am	Grand Mound Oxford Junction	John Moffit Koppes Family
Tuesday 6/29	8:00 am	Grand Mound	Rev. Raymond Hanningan
Wednesday 6/30	5:00 pm	Grand Mound	Evelyn Reistroffer

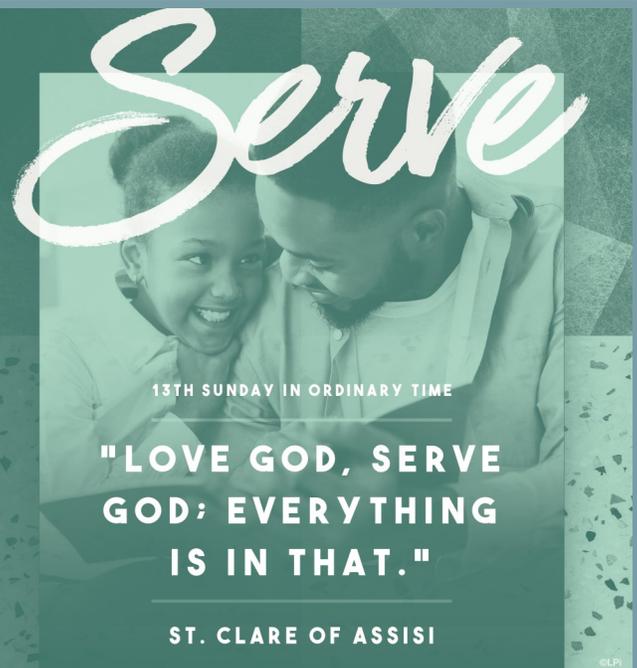
Pope's June Intention
The Beauty of Marriage
Let us pray for young people
who are preparing for marriage
with the support of a Christian
community: may they grow in
love, with generosity,
faithfulness and patience.

July Mass at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat:

On Wednesday, July 7th, Fr Francis Odoom will be coming to **Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat** for Mass at 10:00 am. We would like to invite you to join us for this time of giving thanks. Let us come together as community and make the new clustering easier by meeting each other in a new setting. Come and join us at 2664 145th Ave, Wheatland. We look forward to seeing you. Sr Margaret Kruse, Director

Cluster Parish Prayer List

- Our Shepherds:**
Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Archbishop
Michael Jackels, Fr. Francis Odoom,
Deacon Mike Shiel
- The Aged & Infirm:**
 - Melvin Duwa, Gloria Kagemann, Grace Kinney, & Dick Nodurft
 - Betty Anderson, Jerica Christensen, Rich Kleineck, Leonard Lasack, Paul Lasack & Marilyn Stevenson



DAILY READINGS

Readings for the week of June 27, 2021

- Sunday:** Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11,12, 13/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21,43
- Monday:** Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22
- Tuesday:** Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
- Wednesday:** Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34
- Thursday:** Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Mt 9:1-8
- Friday:** Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106: 1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13
- Saturday:** Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
- Next Sunday:** Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a