

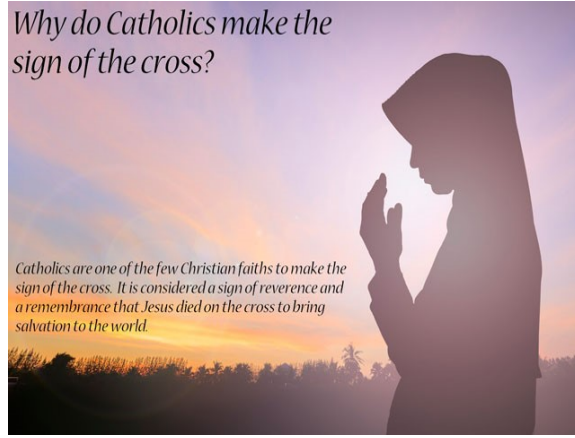


Prayer Corner

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



Today's Mass Intention:
J.C. & Helen O'Hara



Liturgical Ministers

August 2021 Schedule

Lectors:

1 Shari
8 Patty
15 Katie
22 Mark
29 Trenton

Greeters/Gifts:

1 Moorman Family
8 Leeper Family
15 Sauer Family
22 Denniston Family
29 Rickels Family

Servers:

1 Kevin/Ty
8 Kevin/Tim
15 Zain/Grady
22 Kevin/Tyler
29 Kevin/Nathan

Money Counters:

1 Mary Ann M/Mary Ann K
8 Patty/Kris
15 Mary/Jon
22 Mark/Doris
29 Sharon/Monte

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:

1 Mary Ann M/Ron
8 Patty/Margo
15 Margo/Mary Ann M
22 Mark/Doris
29 Ron/Margo

*If you're unable to serve, please find a replacement. THANK YOU for being committed to your ministries. *

WELCOME

To Sacred Heart
"The Church with Heart"

August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

309 Church Street • PO Box 98 • Oxford Junction, IA 52323

www.sacredheartoj.org

Rev. Father Andrew Awotwe-Mensah, Pastor

Mass: Sundays @ 11:00am

To Our Parishioners & Friends

What is This?

Two friends who have not seen each other for some time happened to accidentally bump into each other. One of them looked rather discontent and gloomy, so the other said to him, "Hey, it's so good to see you; however, you don't seem excited!" Responding in a rather disappointing tone, he said to the friend, "You really don't understand. Four months ago, my auntie died and quite unexpectedly, she left me \$45,000. The next month, my cousin died, and he also left me \$30,000. Then last month, an uncle of mine, whom I was not even close to, also died and left me \$25,000." By this time, the friend was getting confused and retorted, "But if you're getting all these amounts of money, why are you not excited?" His answer was, "You don't get it. This month is almost over and so far, nothing!"

The liturgy for this weekend points to the centrality of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and invites us to constantly fix our gaze on him and come to receive him with gratitude. The beautiful reading from Exodus illustrates how the Israelites fluctuated in their sense of gratitude to God and Moses. After 400 years of sojourning in Egypt, God used another human being, Moses, to liberate them through extraordinary acts right before their eyes.

While leading the Israelites little by little to the promised land, the father desired to satisfy them and make them joyful people. Yet, we see how their initial sense of gratitude for this liberation and victory journey to the promised land started to wither as they met bumps and roadblocks on the way. Physical exhaustion, emotional distress, hunger, and thirst triggered memories of sitting by "our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread!" To sustain them so that he can accomplish his purpose, God provided them with manna.

As they saw the manna for the first time, Moses answered their question, "What is this?" by telling them, "This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat." Notice how Moses clearly described the manna, "This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat." The manna was only for nourishment. However, notice Jesus' answer to the people when they asked him for a sign so that they could believe in him: "For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." And here is the stunning part, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

As we follow Jesus and try to conform to his holy nature by letting go of bad habits, fleeting things, easy life, and others, Paul urges us in the second reading that there are moments we miss the fleshpots of such past life and cravings. However, we remember that nothing is more fulfilling and life-giving than the Eucharist. It is the reason we should seek and receive the Eucharist, our true bread from heaven in the spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving in our hearts.

-Fr. Andrew

- Dena Jensen has retired as the Director of Religious Education and confirmation teacher, we are in need of someone to take over before CCD starts in the fall. We are hoping someone with experience in our RE program would come forward and Dena will be happy to help with the transition. We are also hoping those who taught last year will continue to teach this year. September is right around the corner! You may talk with Dena, one of the council members or Fr. Andrew if you are interested. Please prayerfully consider.
- THANK YOU to all who donated supplies and their time with baking the kolaches on Thursday and working in the stand on Friday, for our RAGBRAI visitors. More information will come about the success of this event.
- OJ Alumni Banquet is being held Saturday, Aug. 14th at the Legionnaire. Social time starts at 4:00pm and dinner is at 6:30pm. Reservations need to be made by Aug. 9th. Please call Bruce Rehmke to make reservations at 563-590-3962.



SAVE THE DATE!

September 19, 2021

Annual Fall Festival

Be thinking about your silent auction item!

We need EVERYONE from our church family to help!



Daily Readings Week of August 1, 2021

Sunday, 8/1: Ex 16: 2-4, 12-15/Ps 78: 3-4, 23-24, 25, 54/Eph 4: 17, 20-24/Jn 6: 24-35

Monday, 8/2: Nm 11: 4b-15/Ps 81: 12-17/Mt 14: 13-21

Tuesday, 8/3: Nm 12: 1-13/Ps 51: 3-7, 12-13/Mt 14: 22-36

Wednesday, 8/4: Nm 13: 1-2, 25; 14: 26a-29a, 34-35/Ps 106: 6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23/
Mt 15: 21-28

Thursday, 8/5: Nm 20: 1-13/Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9/Mt 16: 13-23

Friday, 8/6: Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1: 16-19/Mk 9: 2-10

Saturday, 8/7: Dt 6: 4-13/Ps 18: 2-3a, 3c-4, 47 & 51/Mt 17: 14-20