

Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of:

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish

Lost Nation & Toronto

Sacred Heart Parish ~ Oxford Junction

Ss Philip & James Parish ~ Grand Mound

AS WE PREPARE FOR
VISION 20/20...
*Let us all pray and call
on the Holy Spirit to guide
us and open our minds,
lips and hearts to the
Gospel.*



April 7, 2019 - Ladder of Divine Ascent



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Sacrament of Baptism
Please contact Parish Office
to schedule a baptism.

Sacrament of Matrimony
Marriage Preparation at least
90 days prior to your wedding
date. Please contact Parish
Office.

Pastoral Care
Contact Parish Office for
Home visits, Anointing of the
Sick, Holy Communion

Sacrament Reconciliation
Before Mass or call Parish Of-
fice for arrangement with
Priest.

We are 5 weeks already into the season of Lent. Did you realize that? Our Lenten opportunity for conversion, renewal and transformation is slipping by really quick. How far have you gone? Were you able to give up anything this year? It's really not too late to start!

The communal penance: We celebrated our Cluster communal penance the previous week, which was led by Bishop Zinkula. It was a real moment of grace, an amazing opportunity to experience forgiveness as a community of God's people. The Bishop reminded us of the call to conversion as individuals and as a community. Sometimes we forget about the community dimension of our faults. We do not realize that our individual sins impact our community in the long run. That is why we all need to take seriously our personal response to the call to return to the Lord daily. We thank the organizers of the event and all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that we had a good event. We thank the SSPJ Jubilee committee, the great Eastern Iowa choir of Sacred Heart Oxford junction, our team of caterers who served the Bishop and priests after the event and not forgetting my behind the scenes liturgy coordinator for putting together the entire program. May God bless you all!

The ash challenge: We started the season of Lent with the Ash challenge. Do you remember? This is the moment to vote for your best 'ash face'. Pick your best selfie of ash face and send a message on Facebook. We shall count how many votes we get for a particular picture including the likes and choose the winner for an award.

Have you ever attended Chrism Mass before? During the Mass, which is concelebrated by all the active priests in the diocese, the sacred oils are blessed and the priests renew their vows. It's solemn. Do you want to experience it this year? Chrism Mass schedule is on Page 4B in Mass Intentions section.

Let's buckle up, Holy Week is here already!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

St. John Climacus described the Christian life as a ladder with thirty rungs and each rung has a meaning. Everyone is tempted by demons and encouraged by angels while Christ welcomes them at the summit of heaven as in the icon picture noted in the cover of our bulletin.

Did you know that this *important* insight is illustrated by this 12th century icon called "The Ladder of Divine Ascent". Its home is in St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai in Egypt. In this icon, we have Christ in the upper right hand corner receiving pilgrims into heaven. On the bottom, left of center, we have the mouth of hell open to those who abandon the ladder and chose the easy path to destruction. One of the many reasons that this icon is so effective is that it makes very clear that there are only two paths. Each pilgrim is either moving up, or headed down. *"...let us always endeavor to go forward, and to fear exceedingly if we do not; for without doubt the devil wishes to entrap us because love is never idle; and therefore not to advance is a very bad sign..."*

A troubling occurrence is the declining of spiritual development after a period of progress. We become complacent and often happens after a fervent soul makes notable gains against habitual sin. The soul becomes satisfied with itself and then reaches to relax at a pace that seems practical. Usually this pace is an easy one and at first glance, it is perceived as a continued commitment to progress, it may mark the beginning of a fall from the Ladder of Divine Ascent.

The truth is that there are only two routes we take in the spiritual life; we are either headed for heaven or hell. The only way to have any inclination of our actual journey is through clear signs of growth and progress or the lack of growth. The following are worth deep reflection to help us in our climb up the ladder.

1. We should commit to pursue spiritual progress toward our belief in heaven. This progress is marked by a deepening relationship with God in prayer and increasing virtue.
2. We should fear exceedingly if we ever find ourselves lacking in clear progress. This godly fear will lead us into corrective action and a rededication of effort.
3. The enemy is seeking to entrap those who do make and keep this commitment - and even more so those who suffer under the delusion that they can relax in the quest for union with God.
4. Love never rests never stops seeking to give itself to the other - in this case both God and his people. Prayer intentions in church about feeding the hungry, poor, and immigrants but walk out the door and demonize 'those people' who need our help. Are you going up or down on the ladder?
5. If we ever find ourselves failing to realize progress in love of God and neighbor, we should recognize this as a "very bad sign" and work to get back on a track of growth.
6. Stop and think; what is the journey of your soul?

PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

Please note: Bulletin information deadlines due to Easter week are:

- April 14th bulletin due April 8
- April 21st bulletin due April 14

Knights of Columbus meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 in Lost Nation. Pie orders will be delivered on April 13.

SS Philip & James - Grand Mound

April Coffee Hour will not be held due to the annual Welton Fire-fighter's Omelet Breakfast.

Trivia Night: Who Remembers The \$64,000 Question? Answer: Who Won the Bag of Snicker Bars and Jelly Beans candy?



Our Trivia Night was an evening of fun, laughter, and anticipation. Twenty tables were filled with participants who enjoyed dissecting facts and threw in a lot of hilarious nonsense in between. The goal was to win first place but focused more on the dreaded red balloon (last place) being placed on your table.

Our parish raised \$1450.00 and hard-working committee members were Paul Rock, Joe Dierickx, Camilla Lancaster, Lydia Whitman, and Diane Skinner. Lindsey Tague was outstanding in coordinating this event. Winners were:

1. 1st place - Maher Family
2. 2nd place - Browne Family
3. 3rd place - Haack Family

2019 Graduates and 2019 First Communicants of our parish will be honored at the May 5, 2019 parish coffee hour after 8:00 a.m. Mass. All graduates, 1st Communicants and their families are welcome to join us at this coffee hour! A "sign-up" sheet in the church vestibule for all parishioners and families to determine how many people to expect.

We'd like to thank all of the CCD Teachers for their hard work and dedication to the children of our parish. We will be honoring our CCD teachers at a "working" dinner on May 8, 2019 at the church.

APRIL/MAY RE NEWS

- Wednesday, April 10; Class 6-7pm (Children's Station of the Cross) Grades 3-8 Families are invited
- Wednesday, April 17: Class 6-7pm
- Wednesday, April 24: Class 6-7pm
- Saturday, April 27: 1st Communion Retreat 9-11:30am (2nd Grade)
- Wednesday, May 1: 6pm Practice 1st Communion. All Students Refreshments & End of Year celebration
- Sunday, May 5, 8:00am Mass 1st Communion, May Crowning, & HS Graduation
- Wednesday, May 8, 6:00pm Teacher Appreciation Dinner
- Youth Group and Bible Study continues through Wednesday May 1.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Lost Nation/Toronto

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

Sunday May 5-please stay for breakfast after 9:30 Mass to honor our graduating seniors, Lexie Schroeder and Alyssa Koch.

Sunday Aug. 25, "From Farm to Table" fun and fundraiser. Serving pork and pie! 4:00-7:00pm. All parishioners will be asked to help. Watch for details in June!

Three new council members will be needed in June. Please contact Jim Schroeder or any council member for details.

Sacred Heart - Oxford Junction

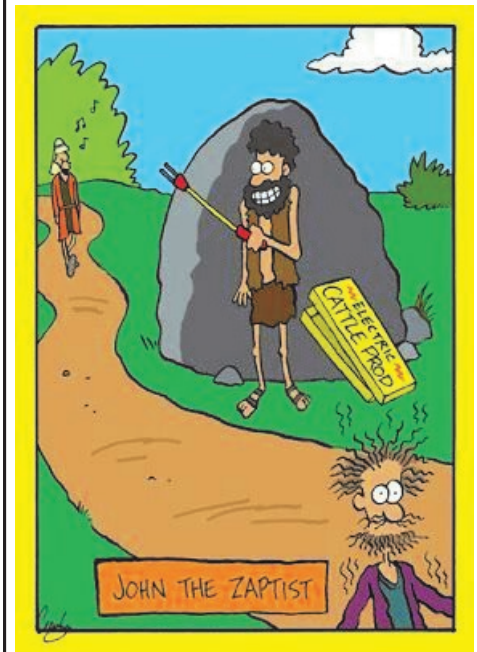
The Sanctuary Guild's annual kolache bake is coming up on April 13. Please consider donating supplies or cash and your time to this very important project. We're hoping that many of us will be able to help that day.

The Parish Council and Choir are asking for donations to change all the sanctuary light bulbs (35) to LED bulbs. Not only will this save both energy and usage, but it will make it brighter in the church. The Choir members would be extremely grateful, as it is very dark in the Choir area at times! Donation boxes are located in the hallway.

Please consider a donation of Spring/Easter flowers to help decorate our altar during the Easter season. If you're not able to make it somewhere to purchase flowers, please contact Doris at 319-480-6963 or Karen at 563-452-3209, and they'll be happy to purchase for you. If you want the flowers in memory of a loved one, please let Doris or Karen know. Decorating will be done on Saturday, April 20. Flowers may be brought to the church anytime before that.

NEWS AND EVENTS

A Day of Reflection: Aging as a Spiritual Journey: April 13: Those who have recently retired or been retired for some time, this day is for you! On Saturday, April 13 from 9:30-3:30 Nancy Hemesath from Omaha, NE, will have a Day of Reflection called: **Aging as a Spiritual Journey.** Nancy will use her life coaching expertise to empower those who are desiring a life full of meaning and enjoyment after retirement. Take some time for yourself and come to this Day of Reflection on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30-3:30 at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat, located at 2664 145th Ave, Wheatland, Iowa. If you do want to attend, call Sr Rae Elwood at 563-336-8414 to register.



Please remember the sick and the infirm, so that they may experience the healing power of Christ:

Our Lady of Holy Rosary: Jeanene Cavey, Dick Nodurft, Melvin & Irene Duwa, Richard Vens, Steve Benischek

SS Philip & James Church: Austin Flammang, Sandy Crosthwaite, Natalie Regan, Elmer Hasenmiller, Grace Kinney, Chris Forret

Sacred Heart Church: Betty Anderson, Rich Kleineck, Brad Manuel, Dennis Koppess, Wendy Larive, John and Marilyn Stevenson



FIND YOUR PLACE

SS Philip & James Ministries April 7, 2019

Lector: Tom Kinney
E. Min: Barb Morrissey & Teresa Grimm
Ushers: Mark Hahn, Vic Green, Alan McNeil
Servers: Vivian & Mary Clare Browne, and Mitchell Maher

April 14, 2019

Lector: Richard Azinger
E. Min: Joyce Barnes & Chris Grillot
Ushers: Marty Traver, Jim Grell, Laurent Moore
Servers: Natalie & Nathan Butler, and Isabel Shockey

April 18, 2019 - Holy Thursday

Lector: Maureen Schrader
E. Min: Jean Maher & Diane Skinner
Ushers: Volunteers
Servers: Alec, Ellen, & Olevia Olson

April 19, 2019 - Holy Friday

Lector: Chris Grillot & Paul Rock
E. Min: Diane Skinner & Diana Scott
Ushers: Volunteers
Servers: Zachary, Jacob, & Andrew Weih

April 21, 2019 - Easter Sunday

Lector: Dick Azinger
E. Min: Chris Grillot & Joyce Barnes
Ushers: Jerry Irwin, John Peavey, Michael Weih
Servers: Brian & Megan Forret, Ali Swanton

April 28, 2019

Lector: Jean Maher
E. Min: Mary Ann Schanze & Volunteer
Ushers: Alan Kagemann, Bryan Robinson, and David Whitman
Servers: Vivian & Mary Clare Browne, and Mitchell Maher

MASS INTENTIONS 4B

Saturday 04/06/19/Lost Nation
05:00pm Anthony & Leona Pusateri
Sunday 04/07/19/**5th Sunday of Lent**
08:00am Grand Mound/Andrew Erickson
09:30am Lost Nation/Ruth Schau
10:00am Oxford Junction/Rosine Regennitter
Monday 04/08/19 No Mass
Tuesday 04/09/19
08:00am Grand Mound/Rosalie Trimble
Wednesday 04/10/19
04:30pm Grand Mound/**Stations of the Cross**
05:00pm Mass/Merwyn & Rhea Hassenmiller
Thursday 04/11/19/Lost Nation/St. Stanislaus
05:00pm **Stations of the Cross**
05:30pm Mass/Scott Benischek
Friday 04/12/19/St.
06:00pm Oxford Junction/**Stations of the Cross**
06:30pm Mass/Maureen Mulvihill
Saturday 04/13/19/Lost Nation/St. Martin
05:00pm Albert Bouchaute
Sunday 04/14/19/**Palm Sunday**
08:00am Grand Mound/Howard & Gerard Green
10:00am Oxford Junction/Glen Regennitter

Holy Week - Chrism Mass is scheduled on Monday, April 15, from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport, IA.



Readings for the week of April 7, 2019

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c
-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4-6 [4ab]/Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/
Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52,53, 54-56
[52b]/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
Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14--
23:56 or 23:1-49