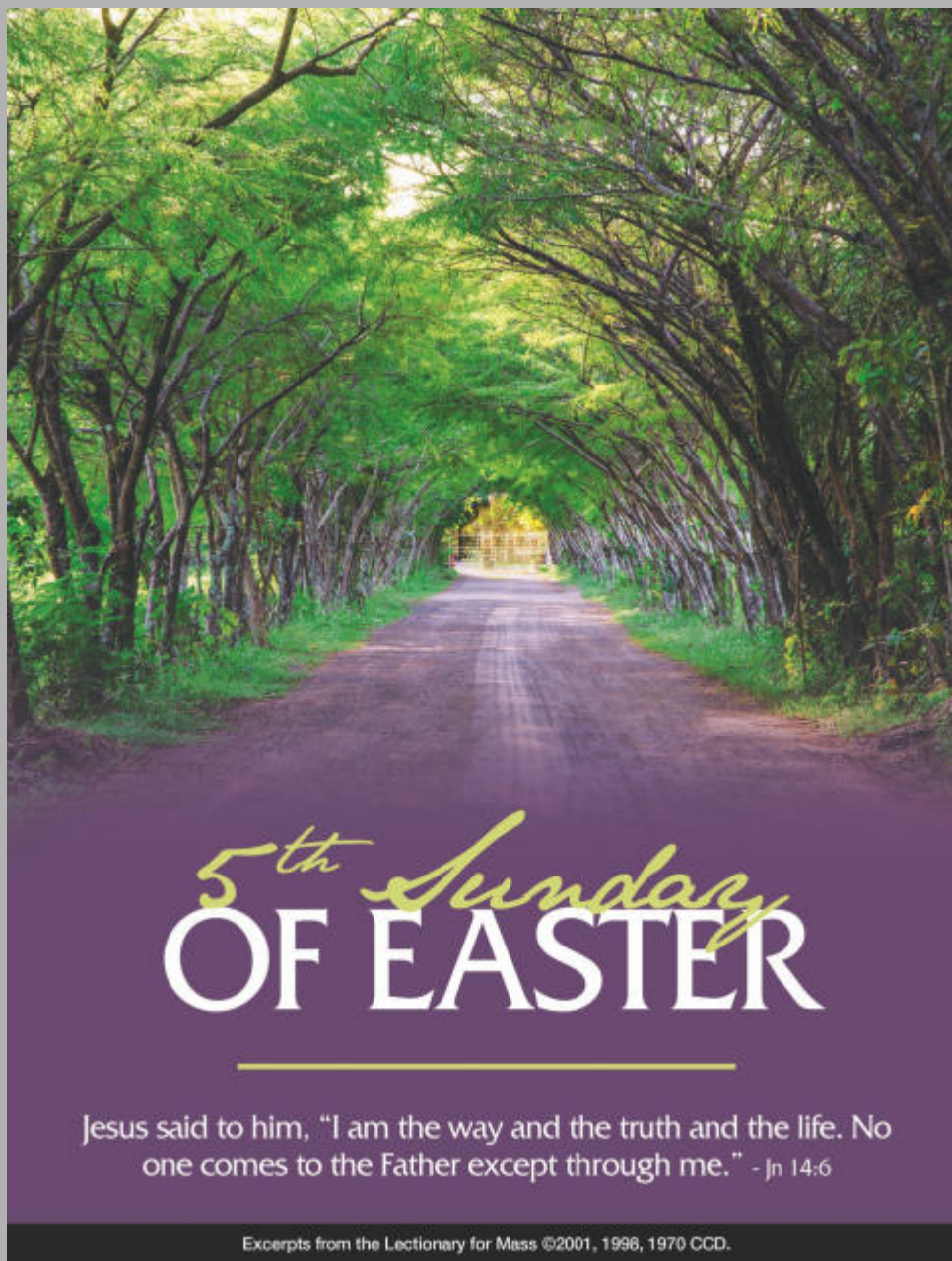


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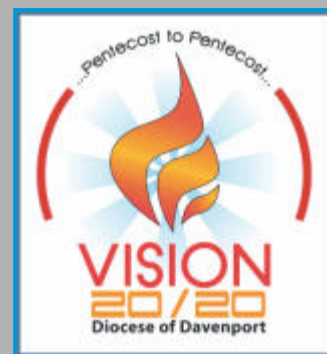
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

Sacred Heart

Sts Philip & James

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

Cell: 515-357-8798

Email: odoomf@diodav.org

Web: holyfamilycluster.com

Deacon: Michael Sheil

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Administrative Assistant

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Churches:

Philip & James Church

606 Fulton Street— P.O Box 7

Grand Mound, IA 52751

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

903 Main St., P.O Box 127

Lost Nation, IA 52254

670 Mill Street

Toronto, IA 52777

Sacred Heart Church

309 Church Street

Oxford Junction, IA 52323

Web www.sacredheartoj.org

Cluster Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Telephone: 563-847-2271

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday 12:00 noon

(unless otherwise noted).

- Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the cluster office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact Pastor 9 to 12 months prior to wedding date.

Celebrating Mothers During A Pandemic

Without doubt, we all miss each other and our weekend Masses. We miss the opportunity to celebrate the liturgy together. As we continue to hope to be back again in our pews, I encourage you to be patient and wait on the counsel of our Bishops. We are hopeful that it will not be long before we are back again to celebrate the love of God for us in the Eucharistic sacrifice. But until then, let us remain steadfast in our faith and continue our social distancing and charitable practices to stop the spread and have concern for one another especially the most vulnerable. Let us continue to pray for an end to COVID-19.

I now turn my attention to our dear mothers: We celebrate all the mothers of our cluster family on Mother's Day. We appreciate all of you for what you do for your families, for our Church family and for the larger community. Let us also take a moment, this day to wish our Blessed Mother, a sincere happy Mother's Day sending her a spiritual bouquet made of Rosaries you pray during this month of our Lady.

As we celebrate the dignity of motherhood as a gift from God and reflect on the relevance of this divine institution in the life of the Church today, it is my prayer that God will supply the needs of all mothers according to his riches in glory. My mother is called Cecilia. She had (just) seven kids: four boys and three girls. She had two girls then four boys in a row; then a girl at the end. I don't want to go into the argument of whether it was easier for her to raise the boys (of which I am part) or the girls. I still remember the rival-

ry and disagreement between the two camps. Ours was a mother who was there for her kids always and taught us why it is always important to sacrifice to make life better for others. I am sure you remember your mother too and all those wonderful persons who assumed the role of mother in your life. Spend some time to pray for Mothers today; do not forget those who have preceded us with the sign of the faith.

I want to end this column by devoting my last paragraph to the Mother of all mothers, the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Savior. The mother of our Savior is also invoked as the mother of the Church and the mother of Christians. God has entrusted her with our wellbeing and our redemption. Her role is to pray for us and to guide us on the way to eternal salvation. We owe our heavenly mother all the love and respect that is deserving of a mother. Our devotions to her are like an offering of a bouquet of roses.

As a loving mother who accompanied her Son on the way to Calvary, Mary journeys with us through all the changing scenes of life. She cries for all her children who are sick of coronavirus and are dying every day. She is present with the suffering and those who are providing help to them. Let us hold firmly to our Rosaries and pray with her to conquer this evil wreaking havoc on humanity today. With her we shall overcome!

Fr. Francis Odoom

A Request from Pope Francis

"Since prayer is a universal value, I welcome the proposal of the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity that Believers of all religions should unite spiritually on 14 of May for a day of prayer and fasting and works of charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic. Remember: on May 14 all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and perform works of charity."

Pope Francis



Why Did God Make You?

Who remembers this question from the *Baltimore Catechism*? Why did God make you? The answer: God made me to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in the next. The mission statement of the Holy Family Cluster, found on the front page of the bulletin each week, states that we are a family of God, constituted by the Holy Eucharist and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to make God known, loved, and served.

So how do we get to know God? The best place to begin, of course, is in the Bible. In the Old Testament He revealed Himself to the patriarchs and the prophets, and then in the New Testament, he revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. So if we want to develop a personal relationship with God, we need to start by reading his Word consistently. To do this we can look in the bulletin each week for the day's readings and then set aside time each day to read and ponder them.

We also need to continue building a relationship with God, and we can do that just as we would when building a relationship with anyone else: get to know Him better. We can start by talking to Him each day. God wants to hear from us. He wants us to tell Him about our successes, our heartaches, our questions, and our concerns. He wants to be involved in our lives.

Now, a relationship is a two-way street. So, while talking to God is important, listening to him is just as necessary. It's not enough to just listen, we have to act in obedience when he speaks. There's an old African proverb that says when you pray, move your feet. Obeying God has a lot to do with trusting him. When we don't trust him, it's usually because we haven't yet developed a deep relationship with him.

Developing a relationship with others can also help us to know God better. We need each other, maybe now more than ever. Seeking out other like-minded Catholics will help fuel our faith. This fellowship with others helps to remind us that we are not alone in this world. There are believers everywhere. That's why God made fellowship so important. He wanted us to come together so that we always know we're not alone.

Developing a relationship with God is a process. It won't happen all at once, and sometimes we may think our relationship with Him is strong one day and the next day we may wonder if He's even there, but that's all part of the journey. We need to hang in there and not give up. It is so worth it!

Colleen Burke
Evangelization Team

COVID-19: A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.
For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.
For all who experience fear or anxiety,
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.
For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.
For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.
For public officials and decisionmakers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.
Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.
Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

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Other things to do this week –

Listen to Catholic Messenger Conversations, a new podcast to engage listeners in the adventures and issues that affect Catholics in our diocese.

Go to the website:

<http://www.catholicmessenger.net/podcasting/>

Check out what Pope Francis is saying and doing

<http://popesprayerusa.net/>

See what is new on our Holy Cluster Website –

<https://holycluster.com/>

Visit our Facebook pages –

**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish
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Pray a Scriptural Rosary—<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/scriptural-rosary.html>

What Next?

God was talking to one of his angels and said, “Do you know what I have just done? I’ve just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn’t that great?”

The angel said, “Yes, but what will you do now?”

God said, “I think I’ll call it a day.”

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LIVE THE LITURGY

What do you imagine the resurrected life of heaven to be like? When we try to get our minds around such an enormous concept, we can easily find ourselves at a loss. For some folks, the enormity of the question actually causes them to ignore the reality of heaven or even conclude that it does not exist. Jesus knew that the magnitude and grandeur of eternal life are really too much for us to grasp. He kept it simple and described it in terms of relationship. The disciples treasured their relationship with Jesus, and he assured them, "Where I am you also may be." Ultimately, that was enough for them to know. They would be with him. Strengthen your relationship with God as He is the way, the truth, and the life. Is the assurance that you will be with Him enough for you as well?

Remember to support your parish!

April Statement for SSP

Income -	\$ 8,566.31
Expense -	\$ 8,878.29
Deficit -	\$ 311.98
Building Fund -	\$ 550.00
Building Fund (roof) -	\$ 70.00

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading In today's reading, Luke offers an example of the cultural tensions that existed in the early Church between the Hellenists (Gentiles) and the Hebrews (Jews). The resolution resided in offering service to the other. Why do you think service can be a key to resolving community conflict?

Second Reading Peter emphasizes the importance of faith in Christ for building a strong spiritual house. How has the gift of faith strengthened your home?

Gospel Reading In his farewell discourse, Jesus encourages the disciples, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." What inspires you in times of spiritual doubt?

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, Elmer & Dorothy Hasenmiller,
Gloria Kagemann, Grace Kinney, Dick Nodurft,
Natalie Regan, & Carolyn Schwien
- Betty Anderson, Jerica Christensen, Rich Kleineck,
Dennis Koppes, Wendy Larive, Leonard Lasack,
Rhonda Murphy, Carmie Nowachek, & Marilyn
Stevenson

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ONLINE MASS OPTIONS

Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses— www.vatican.va

Catholic TV Mass—
<https://www.watchthemass.com/>

EWTN Daily Mass—
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception— <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Daily Mass on YouTube - [Catholic Mass Today](#)

Archbishop Jackels online for Mass each Sunday morning at 9:00 am until public Masses resume: www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Facebook— Mass, family rosary, praying together, etc.—Follow the page to join.

St. Joseph Catholic Church on Facebook— Mass—Follow the page to join.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention **For May**

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

DAILY READINGS

Readings for the week of May 10, 2020

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26

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 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17

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 [2a]/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

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