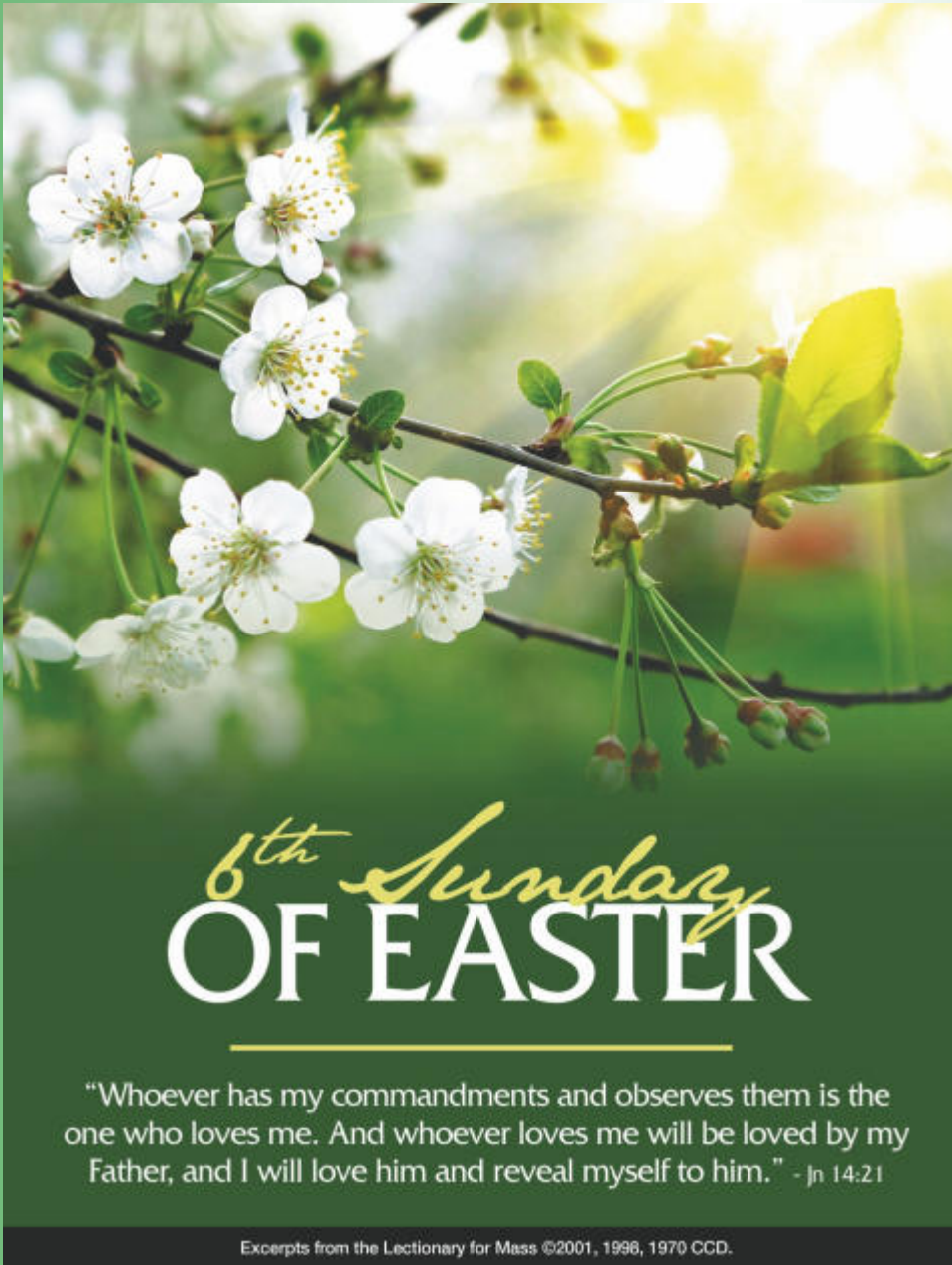


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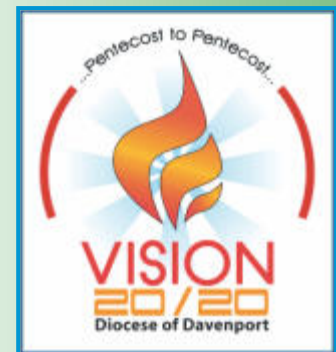
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Sacred Heart

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: holymfamilycluster.com

Deacon: Michael Sheil

Cell: 563-613-0607

Address:

606 Fulton Street— P.O Box 7

Grand Mound, IA 52751

Telephone: 563-847-2271

Web: www.holymfamilycluster.org

Administrative Assistant

Christine Meyer

EM: grandmssphilipjames@diodav.org

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.

Singular Vessel of Devotion

Our Blessed Mother is invoked in the litany of Loreto (ca. 1556) as the singular vessel of devotion. What does it mean when we invoke the Blessed Mother as the singular vessel of devotion? What do we aspire to emulate from such unique example of the Mother of God? There are two words here that are important to understand: vessel (instrument) and devotion (worship/praise). When we refer to the Blessed Mother as the singular vessel of devotion, we are saying that she is 'an instrument of worship' through whom the perfect praise of God goes forth.

Mary as the singular vessel of devotion is the very embodiment of true worship of God. The true worship of God consists of loving God and serving him with all of one's heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27). Mary loved to pray; she was brought up to practice devotion to God. Her family went to the temple to pray frequently. Her life and her prayers were united to give God the praise. Mary's soul was consumed by the love of God so much that all her thoughts poured forth the praise and love of God. Remember the angel called her full of grace (Luke 1:26).

True devotion is not just sweet sentiments or pious actions, it is the perfect love of God and doing of God's holy will. Jesus said to the woman at the well that a time is coming when the true worshippers will worship the Lord in truth and in spirit, for those are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks (John 4:23).

Mary's true devotion expressed itself in the following ways:

- (a) She lifted her mind to God in prayer. Her mind and entire being was lifted up to God, and she contemplated God's majesty day and night. The Gospel of

Luke tells us that she kept all these things (the mystery of Christ) in her heart and pondered them (Luke 2:19).

- (b) She also opened her mouth to praise God. Mary was vocal in her praise; that is to say that the Blessed Mother's devotion was heard in her voice. At the house of Elizabeth, she could be heard praising God, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:46-56)
- (c) She was filled by the Holy Spirit and was present when the promised advocate descended upon the Apostles in the upper room. Her devotion is born of the Spirit. She was present at the Eucharistic table of the early Christian community.
- (d) Mary teaches us the importance of manifesting devotion to God not only in Church or places of worship but more importantly with our lives. It's just like saying, "Do not just believe that God is great. Please live his greatness for all to see how great the Lord is."

This title of our Mother invites us to consider our purpose on earth: to know, love and serve God. We were created to serve God all the days of our lives. So, we are worship beings. Through us the praise of God must go forth. The true worship of God fulfills an eternal purpose. It quenches a deeper thirst in us.

Conclusion:

During this month of May, let us continue to pray to become vessels of devotion after the example of the Blessed Mother (heart, soul, strength and mind together in worship). This is what God deserves; this is what he desires.

Father Francis

Christian Prayer is Intimate, Trusting, Confident

In his audience, Pope Francis said prayer involves the most intimate mystery of our being. Christian writers have always said prayer is born within the secrecy of our beings, in that interior place called the 'heart'. Our emotions, intelligence, and body all participate in prayer, though prayer cannot be identified with any one aspect of our being. Pope Francis said, "Every part of the human person prays."

"Prayer," said Pope Francis, "is a yearning that takes us beyond ourselves as we seek some 'other.' It is an 'I' in search of a 'You'. A Christian's prayer begins with the revelation that the 'You' we seek is not shrouded in mystery. Christianity is the religion that continually celebrates the 'manifestation' of God, His epiphany."

God has revealed Himself to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. So the prayer of a Christian brings us into relationship with God, without any fear or trepidation. "Christianity has banished any type of 'feudal' relationship from the connection with God," he said. "Tendencies toward subjection or vassalage," said Pope Francis, "are replaced with friendship, covenant, and communion. God is the friend, the ally, the bridegroom. One can establish a relationship built on confidence with Him in prayer."

Pope Francis went on to say, "Jesus taught us to approach God with trust, calling him 'Our Father'. We can ask God for anything, explain everything, tell Him everything. Whatever our situation or perception of our lowliness, we know that God is always faithful, and embraces us with mercy. God is the faithful ally. If men and women cease to love, He continues to love, even if love leads Him to Calvary."

Pope Francis concluded with an invitation to enter into 'the mystery of the Covenant.' "Let us place ourselves in prayer between the merciful arms of God to feel embraced by that mystery of happiness which is the Trinitarian life, to feel like those who are invited but have not merited such an honor. As we remain with God in prayer," he said, "let us repeat with awe: Is it possible that You know love alone?"

Pope Francis at audience on Wednesday, May 13

Intentional People of Prayer

Another week in “Quarantine Land” and it seems like forever since we’ve all been together celebrating the Mass. The loss of this Blessed Sacrament has been an imposed sacrifice that we didn’t choose, but maybe we need look at it not as a sacrifice, but as a blessing. Let’s face it; it has given us an opportunity to focus on what really matters in life, our faith. We should try to use this time we’ve been given to become more intentional people of prayer.

Think of it as being on a battlefield, and in a battle we need to be prepared. As people of faith, we know our greatest weapon is God’s Word. So we need to get out our Bibles and read them. There we will find God’s promises and hope in the victories others had through faith. The human race is very resilient. Over the course of history, we’ve been able to survive the worst atrocities of mankind, and we are still standing. We survived! And we will get through this latest battle with the help of God.

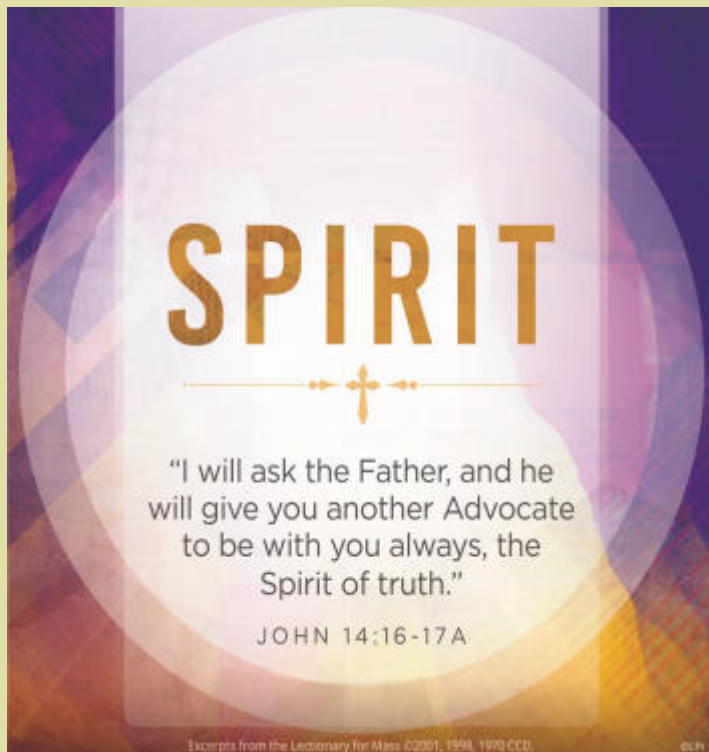
Being able to trust God, regardless of the circumstances, is what it means to be people of faith. Trusting God in tough times isn’t so hard when we remember who He

is. God’s Word reminds us that He is a rescuer who never leaves us or forsakes us. His mercy and love endure forever, and He hears the cries of His people. God is always faithful. We must never doubt that.

In life we choose whether we become bitter or better. We often pray to God to make us more Christ-like and then expect life to be perfect, but it doesn’t work that way. If we want to be Christ-like, we need to go through some of the things He went through. Christ experienced pain, rejection, false accusation, and ultimately crucifixion. It’s true, we will never experience the severity of all that in our lives, but we will experience pain in some form. It is in how we respond to that pain that reveals how deep our faith truly is.

Faith is trusting God regardless of the circumstances. Adversity is an inevitable part of life. When we face the inevitable, God will lift the level of our faith. He will strengthen our belief and ability to weather the ups and downs of life, if we trust Him. We simply need to say, “I will trust God.” That’s what faith is all about, trusting God no matter what.

Colleen Burke — Evangelization Team



Remember that Pope Francis encourages us to pray the rosary every day!

Prayer During A Health Crisis

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern
impart to us the calm of your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap your arms around our world
and hold us in your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then
serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen.

©LPi

Home in Heaven

A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the pearly gates waiting for them.

“Come with me,” said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine, from a bowling alley to an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

“Wow, thank you,” said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

“Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,” said the pastor.

“Shouldn’t I be the one who gets the mansion? After all, I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God’s word.”

“Yes, that’s true,” said St. Peter. “But during your sermons, people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.”

LIVE THE LITURGY

Do you understand the true spiritual meaning of hope? Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. It is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and rely not on our own strength, but on the help of the Holy Spirit. Hope, when seen in this way, does not set its sights purely on the things of this world but on the promises of God to come. Hope always is linked with faith and love. Often our hopes can become too self-focused and something that is only about me and things that matter to me. Christ's resurrection reminds us that it is not ultimately for this purpose. What is the reason for your hope? Our Easter season provides the opportunity for us to again assess whether it is the kingdom of heaven and life eternal or something else.
@LPI

Editor's Note

We would like some feedback on the sections of the bulletin. What would you like to see more of or less of? Do you have any new ideas for stories? All of your suggestions will be helpful. Please send them to grandmssphilipjames@diodav.org Thank you!

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading In Acts 2, Luke records how the Holy Spirit initially descended upon the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. In today's reading, we hear how the Holy Spirit also descended upon the Samaritans who believed in Jesus. What lesson do you think Luke is conveying to us?

Second Reading Peter advocates for being prepared to defend the faith, even in the face of danger. How does one find the courage to defend the faith in a hostile environment?

Gospel Reading Jesus reveals to his disciples that the intimacy between himself, the Holy Spirit and the Father can be shared with fellow believers. How do you experience the intimacy of our triune God?

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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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 17, 2020

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

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

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