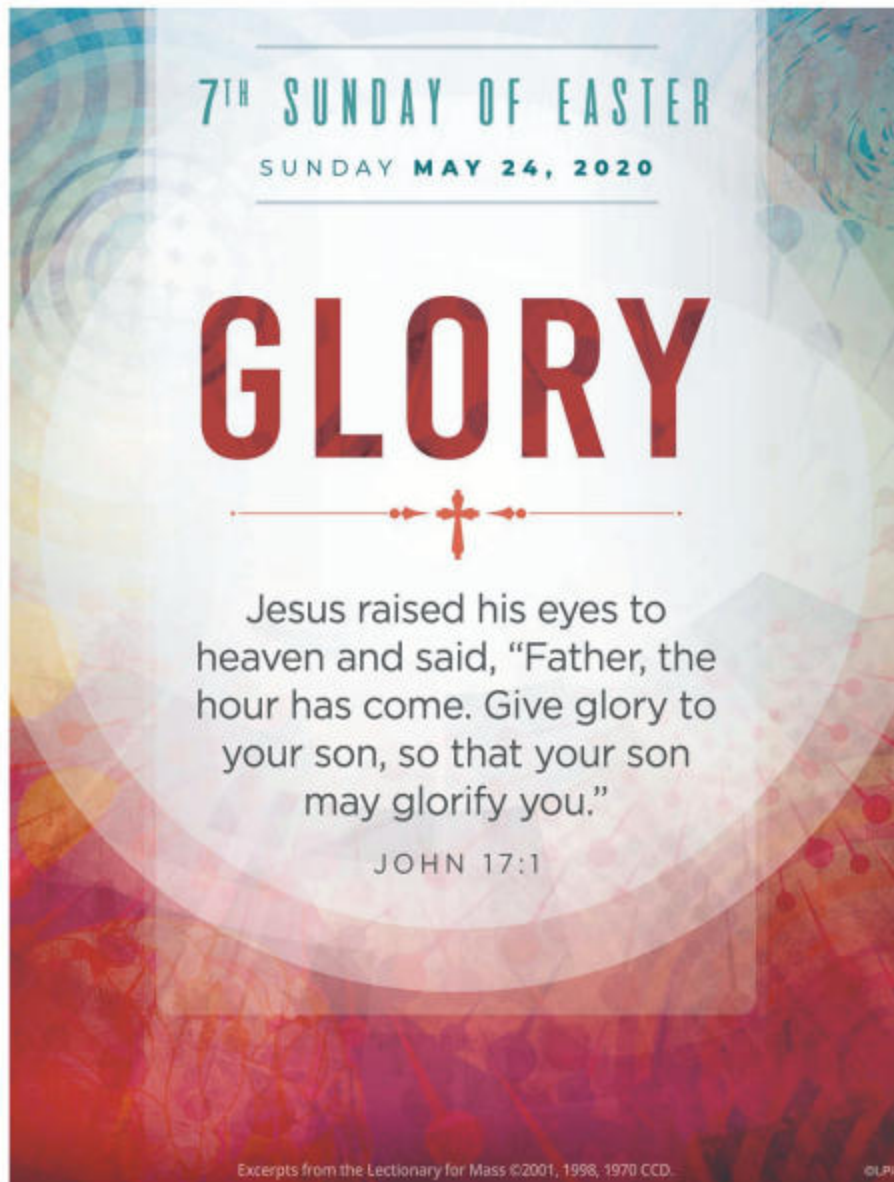


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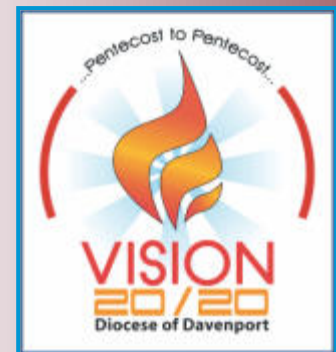
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

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

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Grand Mound, IA 52751

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

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Sacred Heart Church

309 Church Street

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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 Pentecost in the Pandemics

Usually, during the celebration of the feast of Pentecost, (which marks the birth of the Church), the occasion was marked with a prayer vigil, a vigil Mass and the day's Mass that celebrates the wonderful event of when the Spirit descended upon the Church to empower her. This fulfilled the promise that Jesus made to his Apostles; it commissioned them for the task of evangelization in the world.

I have been thinking about how we are going to celebrate this day in an impactful way notwithstanding our being under lockdowns with no chance of gathering to pray and celebrate together. I am thinking of livestreaming the *Pentecost vigil* from my home office and bringing you the *Pentecost Sunday Mass* as usual. But before we get to that point, I am urging all members and families to join me in a Pentecost Novena, from Friday, May 22-Saturday, May 30. We shall start every day at 6.30 pm with the praying of the Rosary. We shall conclude the day's prayers with the Novena prayers to the Holy Spirit. I invite you to join me to pray to the Holy Spirit for the renewal of the Church for the after-pandemic world.

Paul admonishes Timothy (1Tim 1:6) to stir into flame the gifts that he received when hands were laid on him. This is our theme for our Pentecost journey: *Stirring into flame the gifts we have received from God as a Family*. These words are being addressed now to us as we continue in lockdowns. This is a call to be transformed and renewed by the grace of God. The grace we received from the Spirit is like oil that needs to be heated from time to time. Remember that before the spirit came upon the apostles in the upper room, they were afraid and feared for their lives, they did not understand fully what their future was going to be. When they received the spirit of truth, they received power to cast off their fears and to be out there to tell the world the marvelous things the Lord has done and continues to do.

Fr. Francis Odoom

From Vatican News

Fr. Antony Kadavil reflects and comments on the readings at Mass for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. He says that the ascended Jesus is still with us because of His promise, 'I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Each Sunday we profess through the Creed, "*He ascended into Heaven.*" Christ's Ascension was the culmination of God's Divine plan for Christ Jesus – his return to his Father with his "Mission Accomplished." Ascension is the grand finale of all Jesus' words and works done for us and for our salvation. It is a culmination, but not the conclusion. As Jesus is now with God in glory, so Jesus is with us now in Spirit: "*Lo, I am with you always.*" The feast of the Ascension celebrates one aspect of the Resurrection, namely Jesus' exaltation. Jesus did not wait 40 days to be glorified at God's right hand. That had already happened at his Resurrection. The focus of this feast is the Heavenly reign of Christ. The Lord is now "seated at the right hand of the Father" as we profess in the Nicene Creed, meaning He alone is in control of the continuing plan of salvation through the Holy Spirit, unrestricted by time, space or culture. Thus, in the Paschal Mystery, Jesus' passion, death, Resurrection, Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit form one unbroken reality which is to be understood by Faith. The Ascension means that Jesus, His salvific suffering for our Salvation completed, is with his Father in glory. Being seated at the right hand of the Father is the fulfillment of "the prophet Daniel's vision concerning the Son of Man: 'To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed'" (CCC #664).

Discipleship

In our Catholic faith we are commissioned to live the Gospel as Jesus asked. All of us are called to live as missionary disciples and proclaim God's love with joy and confidence — by our words and actions, by the witness of our lives. Just as the saints and missionaries were sent out before us, the Lord sends us out for the same purpose. Each one of us is called to listen with his/her heart as Jesus speaks, to be challenged by the Word of God, and to contribute to the completion of his work on earth.

On our journey, we may find obstacles. Sometimes, we may feel that we just do not know enough about Jesus, his life, or his teachings. We may feel that we don't spend enough time on spiritual practices that will draw us closer to God, like prayer and Scripture reading. We may feel that we don't reach out enough to those in our church who are hurting, emotionally or spiritually. But we need to stop thinking that way. Even though the call to discipleship is clear, that doesn't make it easy. Discipleship is not a neat, prescriptive process that goes exactly as planned. Instead, it takes time and commitment. We simply need to do our best and push forward.

One thing we can do is look to the Beatitudes for inspiration. When Jesus gave us the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, he explained what it meant to be

holy and how to find true happiness. And he made it very clear that holiness cannot be understood or lived apart from these demands. They are a reminder to us that the ultimate criterion on which our lives will be judged is what we have done for others.

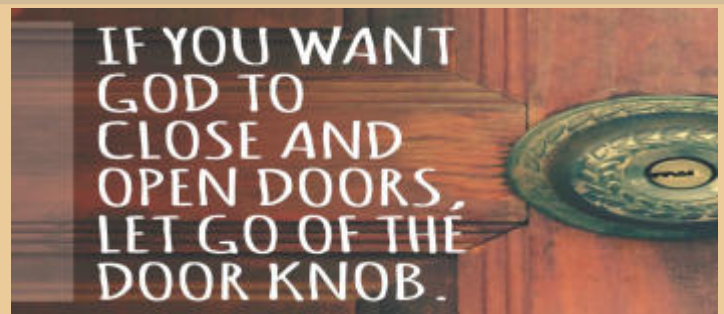
So what are the Beatitudes and what are we called to do? Here's what Jesus said: blessed are the poor in spirit (We need to be humble.); blessed are they who mourn (We must regret our sins and the suffering of others.); blessed are the meek (We must be gentle and kind.); blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness (We must seek fulfillment of God's will in our hearts and souls.); blessed are the merciful (We must have compassion and forgiveness.); blessed are the pure of heart (We must be free of all selfish intentions and self-seeking desires.); blessed are the peacemakers (We must be filled with peace and pass it on to others.); blessed are they who are persecuted (We must be willing to suffer for His sake.)

On this Solemnity of the Ascension, let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a desire to be the people God wants us to be, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.

Colleen Burke
Evangelization Team

This poem was written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Spanish Flu Pandemic and was written by Kathleen O'Mara:

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



Why do we kneel at Mass?

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the holy posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.

LIVE THE LITURGY

Being real people of faith comes with a price. Have you ever been seen as unpopular, out of sync or peculiar because of your faith? St. Peter tells us, "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you." If being a Christian comes easy for us, then we ought to rethink how we approach our faith. Developing habits of prayer, living in accord with the Gospel, setting time aside each week for the practice of our faith, seeing our relationship with Christ as the center and focus of our families all come with sacrifice. We are going to look differently than other folks and we ought to. We are going to find ourselves doing less of the things we are "supposed to do" and more of the things we know we "ought to do or want to do." This often means resisting secular tides and putting our boats into different waters. If this is what helps us to know the one true God, then so be it. It also brings us to eternal life.

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Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading Those closest to Jesus in his life gathered together in the immediate aftermath of his resurrection and ascension. What sort of mixed emotions do you think they experienced?

Second Reading Peter encourages those who suffer for the faith to "glorify God." When have you experienced this type of redemptive suffering?

Gospel Reading At the conclusion of his farewell discourse, Jesus offers a prayer of petition to the Father for his disciples. How do you find Jesus' words comforting?

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 24, 2020

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

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. **Extended Vigil:** Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39. **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

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