



The Annunciation

Bringing news of great joy from the parish

March April 2017

Fellow Parishioners St. Mary Oskaloosa /St. Mary Pella,

March may enter as lion or as a lamb but this year if a lion, it will be the lion roaring "Repent" or if a lamb, the sacrificial Lamb of God as March first is Ash Wednesday the opening of the Season of Lent. While neither attendance at Mass nor the reception of ashes is obligatory on Ash Wednesday, no liturgy or sacramental is as universally participated in and made use of by Catholics worldwide. The call to repentance but echoes Jesus own call at the opening of his ministry as noted in the Gospel of Mark (MK 1:15), "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.". The receiving of ashes is an open acknowledgement that one recognizes that within oneself and this ole world something just isn't quite right.

Presently this seems to be a universal observation among the citizenry of the United States of America. St. Paul himself noted in his Letter to the Romans (7:19-25a), "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. So, then I discover, the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. For I take delight in the law of God in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body?". Paul as we ourselves found his and we our deliverer in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Marking oneself with ashes is an ancient human practice to announce that I am not as I should be given some sad reality or event of loss. Most commonly it was to announce that one was in mourning given the death of a loved one or that one was suffering oneself with a deadly disease and entreating God for cure. The wearing of black or dark clothing at funerals still today follows from this ancient custom. In ancient Israel it signaled that one was not fit to be with God nor among the community.

Mourning is a profound statement of loss. Our taking of ashes to open the Season of Lent is a statement that I am at loss, the loss of my God through my selfishness and sin. Jesus says of his disciples in the Gospel of Mark (2:20) "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.". Both in ashes and fasting do we attest that through our selfishness and sin we have turned away from God and Jesus. Although by sin I am far away from God, yet by grace, God is ever near.

Jesus says of alms giving in the gospel of Luke (LK 11:41), "But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you.". As to prayer, Jesus often is himself at prayer, directs others to pray and gives his disciples the "Our Father" as a particular prayer for them to pray.

Heartened by our Church's Elect, those who now in Lent are called to the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) and those Candidates for Full Communion with the Church we seek by the pieties of Ashes, Fasting, Almsgiving and Prayer to be prepared to renew the vows of our initiation into the Church at Easter. Lent calls us to, "Repent" to turn again from our self to the Lord and to be reconciled with God and neighbor as we come to share our annual renewal of our reception of Christ's redeeming grace in Baptism. Our Lenten schedule of prayer and piety at St. Mary Oskaloosa and Pella is shared within this newsletter as an aid to our being renewed by the grace of Easter.

Grace and Peace,

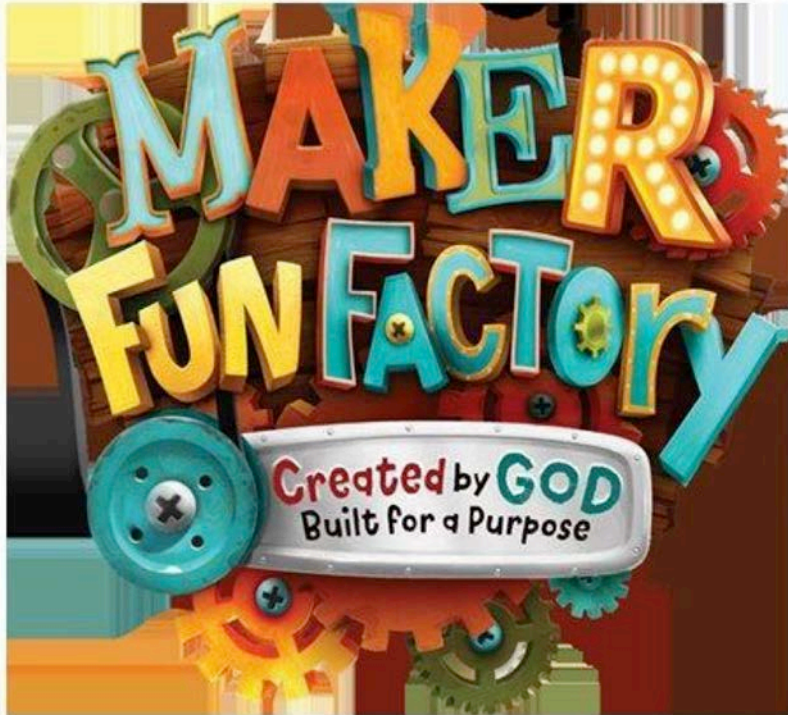
Fr. John

SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER

Spring Fling Youth Fundraiser is underway! This fundraiser is the one fundraiser where students do over 95% of the work themselves (only adult involvement is the printing of letters & labels as well as supervision of their assembly line). St. Mary's youth grades 6-12 participate in these events. Proceeds go to individual student accounts based on the amount of time each student worked. Students can then use these funds for youth activities such as National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Rallies, March for Life, Ski trip, retreats, Catholics In Action, One Bread One Cup Youth Leadership Training, deanery tubing on the Des Moines River, HS trip to Sky Zone, and more! Special thank you to Janine Moore for coordinating this year's event.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



June 12-16

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ages 3 (and potty trained) -
completion of 5th grade

Cost is \$20/child or \$60/family

Online Registration will be
available at

www.stmarysosky.com

go to Faith Formation tab, K-12,
VBS

To guarantee a T-shirt, please
register by May 1.

ADULT & YOUTH HELPERS NEEDED! Please register to
volunteer prior to May 1.

POTENTIAL CHANGES impacting

1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion Preparation

The Faith Formation Commission has been reviewing the current structure for preparing young disciples to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion. Having heard numerous concerns from catechists, parents and some students, a change needs to occur. At this time, the current proposal is hold a Sacraments Day Camp during the summer AFTER completion of second grade (first implemented in Summer 2018). This week-long camp will allow young disciples to learn about the sacraments and allow time for enrichment activities. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will then be received midweek and the Sacrament of Communion will be received the following Sunday. Parents will not be required to attend the week-long camp but will be required to attend a parent workshop earlier in the year. Again, this is a proposal. Constructive feedback & comments are most welcomed!

FIFTH ANNUAL

TREAT YOURSELF

EVENT

Sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church Youth

April 29

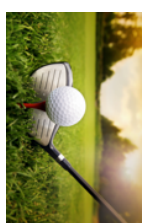
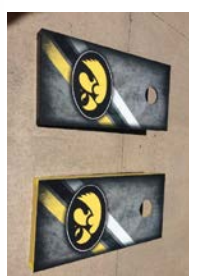


What is hidden inside is a special surprise !
Every box is a winner.
\$10.00 per box



Dessert Buffet
All Treats \$1 per plate

These were some of the fabulous donated items from last year- gift certificates, 9-hole golf gift card, 1 dz farm fresh eggs for 8 weeks, handcrafted Madonna figurines, wall quilts....the list goes on!



CURRENTLY ACCEPTING DONATIONS! We are looking for people and/or businesses willing to donate items such as massage certificates, processed hogs, Civic Center tickets, gifts cards to restaurants, auto repair, music lessons, themed gift baskets, handcrafted items, golf outings, paintings, homemade pies, home cooked meal, etc. Our only limitation is our imagination!

YOUTH PRAISE BAND

A youth praise band has formed! Having begun in January, students grades 6-12 come together Monday evenings for rehearsal. There are a wide variety of instruments and voices! We are grateful for Jenny Feudner who is leading these young disciples and walking with them as they develop their gifts and talents! Anyone in middle school or high school who would like to participate is most welcome! Rehearsals are in the youth room from 6:30p - 7:30p on Monday evenings. For more information, please contact Jenny Feudner.

DEANERY SKI TRIP



The Grinnell Deanery held their annual ski/snowboarding/tubing trip on January 29. There's so much more to the event than just being on the slopes! Young disciples are found helping each other, playing cards with new friends, and being on the slopes! Special THANK YOU to Ron & Kris Mitrisin for driving our bus! You are a blessing to us!

MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE



Nearly 500,000 people gathered on January 27th in Washington, DC for the March for Life events surrounding the 1973 Roe vs Wade decision which led to legalized abortion. During this pilgrimage, participants had the opportunity to visit with Iowa Senator Joni Ernst as well as others representing our elected officials. United States Vice President, Mike Pence, spoke at the rally. In addition to these experiences, pilgrims visited the Holocaust Museum, toured the capital and participated in Mass at the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception.

Birthdays

March

- 4 - Alex Yang
- 5 - Aubree Kool
Sullivan Tighe
- 6 - Felicity Reddy
- 8 - Sydney Septer
- 11 - Jamison Ireland
- 12 - Nolan Miller
- 15 - John Hammes
- 16 - Mallory Lanphier
- 19 - Jarad Kruse
- 26 - Ellie Henry
- 19 - Khydin Yang

April

- 3 - Claire Kelderman
- 4 - Noemi Rodriguez
- 5 - Jose Chavez, Jr.
- 7 - Jack Miller
- 9 - Grayson Bares
- 10 - Trevor Willett
- 11 - Casey Baty
Brooke Richardson
- 13 - Tanner Lanphier
- 14 - Nicholas Koenig
- 19 - Jenna Appleget
Nickolas Schaffner
- 20 - Stella Bares
Connor Miller
- 21 - Wyatte Loner
- 22 - Aidan Krejci
Denaly Moren0-Martinez
- 24 - Hadley Weber
- 26 - Melia Lopez
- 27 - Nathan Kelderman
- 29 - Alison Arellano

Birthdays listed are those of our younger parishioners.

Anniversaries

March

- 1 - Douglas and Mary Beth Hunt, 37
- 4 - Robert and Patricia Waters, 28
Lowell and Harriet Lenarz, 57
- 7 - Randy and Diane Mick, 16
- 8 - Brian and Amanda Lemke, 9
- 10 - Filiberto & Araceli Arellano, 15
Al and Elaine Salanitro, 28
- 15 - Chris and Heidi Potot, 14
- 19 - Tom and Madonna Bowie, 34
- 23 - Jerry and Lindy Brandt, 26
Peter and Virginia Twomey, 33
- 31 - Mike and Molly Sterner, 28

April

- 8 - Dennis and Mary Parks, 17
- 10 - Mark and Heidi Scholes, 15
- 11 - Lee and Colleen Dennis, 36
- 14 - Nic and Jenni Lynch, 10
- 16 - John and JoAnn Severin, 51
- 19 - Ted and Judy Smith, 59
- 20 - Bob & Patti Mitrisin, 10
Steven and Annette Wanders, 21
- 24 - Marion and Marj Striegel, 24
- 27 - Doug and Pam Nimtz, 26

if anything is incorrect, please contact the parish office with corrections



Lenten Schedule

Prayer

Ash Wednesday -- March 1

Masses: SMO: 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Soup Supper follows Mass at the

St. Mary Parish Center

SMP: 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses

SMO: Tues. 7:00 a.m. Wed. 8:00 a.m.

Thurs. and Fri. See Sunday Bulletin or

On Line Calendar for time and location

SMP: Tues. 8:30 a.m. Wed. 12:15 p.m.

Friday See Sunday Bulletin or

On Line Calendar for time and location

Sunday Masses

SMO: Sun. 8:00 a.m./5:00 p.m.

SMP: Sat. 5:00 p.m./Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Diocesan Chrism Mass

Mon. April 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory Church, Davenport, IA

Sacrament of Penance:

SMO: Sat 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

SMP: Sat. 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

and after 5:00 p.m. Mass until all are served

Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

SMO: Sat. March 25 at 10:30 a.m.

SMP: Sun. March 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

SMO: 5:30 p.m. on Fridays March 3, 17, 31

When Stations of the Cross are at SMO

Mass is at SMP

SMP: 5:30 p.m. on Fridays March 10, 24, April 7

When Stations of the Cross are at SMP

Mass is at SMO

Fasting

All Catholic age 18 through 59 are called to Fast on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and Good Friday, April 14th. One full meal and two part meals may be taken and no food is to be taken between meals. Water, fruit juices and other beverages may be taken at any time*.

Abstinence

All Catholics 14 years and older are called to abstain from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday*.

* One is dispensed from fast and abstinence for reasons of health or demand of labor and is encouraged to practice some other act of penance and self denial suitable to their circumstances. To ignore the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious matter. Any of the Faithful in the Diocese of Davenport with the dispensation of Bishop Amos who wish to eat meat on the Feast of St. Patrick Friday 17 March may do so as long as they abstain from meat on some other day, on or between March 13 -18.

Almsgiving

Collection for the Churches of Eastern Europe - Ash Wednesday

Collection for the Franciscan Missions of the Holy Land - Good Friday

Donations to other charities of personal selection are suggested.

Lenten Schedule

Triduum and Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday -- April 13
The Mass of the Lord's Supper SMO -- 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday -- April 14
Passion, Veneration of The Cross and Holy Communion
SMO -- 3:00 p.m. SMP -- 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday -- April 15
Easter Vigil SMP: 8:30 p.m.
(SMP: No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday - April 16
Sunday Masses -- SMO: 8:00 a.m./5:00 p.m.
SMP: 10:30 a.m.

Links for Ideas for Lent

Your Guide To A Catholic Lent -- <http://bit.ly/2m1beEQ>

Best Lent Ever - <http://bit.ly/2mcebBE>

Lent (Catholic Bishops)- <http://bit.ly/1AmYycZ>

What Should I do for Lent? Pope Francis' 10 tips - <http://bit.ly/2kWTfhS>

Rice Bowl - <http://www.crsricebowl.org/>

How to Practice Lent at CRS - <http://bit.ly/2mjSTs>

Links for Apps to find Mass Times when out of town.

Link for App - <https://masstimes.org/>

Link for App - http://www.thecatholicdirectory.com/dsp_mobile_app.cfm

Link for App - <http://myparishapp.com/mass-times/>

Meal Ideas for Lent

40 Days of Soup - <http://bit.ly/2lYtgLa>

Meatless Lenten Recipes - <http://bit.ly/2kk4DXB>