



The Annunciation

Bringing news of great joy from the parish

November / December 2107

Parish Family,

As I have announced by way of our parishes' newsletters and by presentations to Bishop Zinkula and respective Corporate Board Members, Finance Councils, and Parish Councils I will be on a medical leave from SMO/SMP beginning on Monday 23 October and ending On Monday Dec. 4. The end date of this medical leave may be moved up as recovery from a total right hip replacement surgery of 23 October may make possible.

The diocese will not be providing an individual priest to serve as a temporary replacement for my pastoral assignment during this medical leave. Fr. Tom Spiegel and Fr. Bill Wiegand retired priests of the diocese residing in Oskaloosa and Pella respectively have accepted to provide basic coverage for our respective parishes.

Basic coverage is that of all Sunday and Holy Day Masses at each parish as well as the parishes' Sacrament of Penance weekend schedule and one weekday Mass (Tuesday 7:00 a.m. Oskaloosa and Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Pella) at each parish. They each, at each parish, will have responsibility for all emergency sacramental and pastoral ministry calls and Funeral Services and Funeral Masses.

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A weekday Communion Service will be provided to each parish by the deacons assigned to SMO/SMP; Dc. Don Efinger and Dc. Lowell Van Wyk. Weekday Communion Services with some exceptions are at SMO on Thursday following the care center 10:30 a.m. and parish church 8:00 a.m. Thursday Mass schedule and at SMP on Fridays at 8:30 a.m. The deacons will also respond to any regular hospital visitation request.

The number of priest assignable by the diocese is not adequate to the number of diocesan assignments, which is why I pastor both SMO and SMP. My incapacity to carry out my pastoral duties while on medical leave brings sacrifice to all of us; parishioners, parish ministry volunteers, parish staffs, deacons and assisting volunteer retired priests. Me? I'm giving up my right hip and as we know, "Oz never did give nothing to the Tin Man that he didn't, didn't already have". With the Tin Man's heart and hip, I'll pray for you and I welcome your prayers for me.

Fr. John



100 Anniversary of Fatima

A group gathered on October 14th to recite the rosary in honor of the Fatima Anniversary.

Advent Scripture Study

This Advent on the Second (12-10) and the Third (12-17) Sundays of Advent following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at SMP and the 5:00 p.m. Mass at SMO a Scripture Study Reflection will be held on the infancy narratives of Matthew (2: 1-23) and Luke (2:1-40 and 2:41-52).

This reflection will follow the scriptural commentary of Fr. Raymond Brown: *An Adult Christ at Christmas: Essays on the Three Biblical Christmas Stories; Matthew 2 and Luke 2*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN. (ISBN 0-8146-0997-X) This material is also contained in a larger collection of Fr. Raymond E. Brown's scriptural commentaries: *Christ in the Gospels of the Liturgical Year*, Liturgical Press Collegeville, MN (ISBN 978-0-8146-1860-8. One need not have either book to share in this Advent Scriptural Reflection. They are noted here if one should like to have access to these books.

Fr. John