



# *The Annunciation*

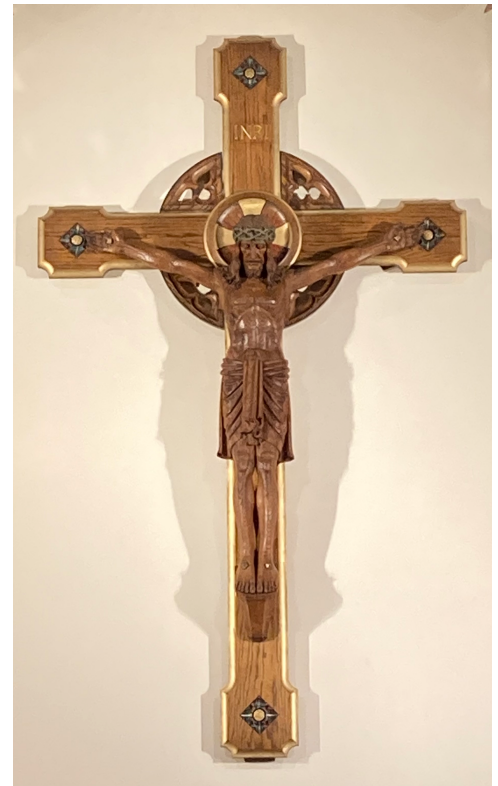
Bringing news of great joy from the parish

January, February, March and April 2021

Parish Family,

A little over a year ago, the news of COVID 19 and a potential pandemic began to fill the headlines. Lent began with packed churches on Ash Wednesday and a few short weeks later public Masses were suspended and eventually church buildings were closed, even to private prayer. While many of us felt blind-sided by the events that unfolded last Lent, this year is different. We are entering into the desert of Lent keenly aware of the cross of the Coronavirus and how it has impacted our lives. For some, it has led to the challenges of loneliness and isolation. For others, the Coronavirus has brought the tragic loss of a grandparent, a parent, or a spouse.

As we enter into the desert of Lent, we once again have the opportunity to take up our cross and follow after the Lord Jesus. Thankfully, the Church gives us three disciplines to guide our Lenten pilgrimage. The first discipline given to us is that of prayer. The Catechism defines prayer quite simply as the raising of one's mind and heart to God. God made us for union with Him and the greatest gift we can give the Lord is our heart. In our prayer, we enter into a heart to heart dialogue with God. We speak to the Lord sharing with Him what is on our heart; our worries and fears, our aspirations and longings, our need for direction and guidance along life's journey. Then, we sit in silence listening for the small, soft voice of the Lord speaking to our hearts.



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If you have not already done so, consider establishing a regular time and place for prayer this Lent. Find a time of the day you can consistently devote to prayer without many distractions. Mark it in your calendar as an “Appointment with God.” Treat it as just important as any of your other daily commitments. Try to find a place where you can engage in prayer and cultivate silence and solitude. Consider designating a room or a corner in your home as your “Prayer Space.” Place an image of Our Lord, our Blessed Mother, or your favorite Saint in the space. Find a spot to display your Bible and have it readily available for prayerful reflection.

The second discipline of Lent is that of fasting. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday the Church asks those Catholics who are 18-59 years old to fast. The Church’s definition of fasting is the taking of one normal sized meal and two smaller meals that would not equal the size of the one normal sized meal. On a fast day, one is not to consume any food in between meals. In addition, on these days the Church asks us to abstain from eating meat.

When we fast we are reminded of our soul’s deepest hunger, our hunger for God. Fasting also brings about clarity of mind that can help us go deeper in our prayer. Whether we devote to fasting a day or two during the week throughout Lent or we choose to fast from sweets, our favorite food or beverage, or from watching TV, our fasting unites us with Christ who prayed and fasted in the desert and gave up everything for our sake in his suffering and death on the Cross. The third traditional discipline of Lent is that of almsgiving. The Church asks us to give alms, or in other words, to give of our resources to those most in need in imitation of Christ who shows us what true Divine love looks like. Jesus taught us that we would always have the poor with us. When we give to the poor by carrying out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we grow in our capacity to love. The more we give out of love for our brothers and sisters, the more we grow in our desire to imitate Christ in his self-emptying love.

There are many ways we can practice the discipline of almsgiving this Lent. We can place our extra change at the end of the day or the money we would have used to buy a cup of coffee or candy bar into our Lenten Rice Bowls. We can commit ourselves to doing at least one act of charity each day of Lent for a person of our choosing. We can give of our time to a local charity such as the local food bank, the Catholic Worker House, or the like. By taking up the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, we can grow in holiness and self-sacrifice so that when Easter comes we will have grown closer to the Lord and have made progress in our quest for holiness.

Fr Troy

## Our Parish Welcomes

### Through Baptism

Thomas Xavier  
Son of  
Jessie & Steven Phillips  
February 23, 2020

Melie Pattua Cua  
Daughter of  
Mai & Phong Yang  
May 17, 2020

Daisy Mae  
Daughter of  
Kelli & David Hugo  
November 21, 2020

### Through Marriage

Katherine Sterner  
&  
Nicholas Birkhofer  
July 11, 2020

Angelica Gomez Reyes  
&  
Juan Flores  
August 12, 2020

MacKenzie McGraw  
&  
Ross Howe  
December 12, 2020

## *Save The Dates*

### *Sweet Sunday Serenade*

Look for this entertaining fund raiser to return after Easter. The Faith Formation Commission is working on this fun filled activity for the Parish.

### *Church Cleanup*

Look to help out the Building and Grounds Commission with the Annual cleanup of the Church yard and garden on April 3rd. More information regarding times will be in the bulletin. Rain date will be April 10th.

### *Church Directory*

A new pictorial directory is in the works (and has been since Fr. Troy arrived). With COVID restrictions companies have had to revisit their requirements. We now have Universal Church Directories working with us. Dates for pictures for St. Mary Oskaloosa are on  
**Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri,  
May 11, 12, 13, 14  
2 pm to 8:30 pm  
Saturday, May 15  
10:30 am to 4:00 pm**  
Pictures will be taken at the Parish Center.

Please make every effort to be included.

### **St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawls are a beautiful, comforting and unique way to bring the embrace of Our Savior to those that are in need of this blessing. Prayer Shawls are created in a spirit of prayer for the recipient, whoever that recipient may be. Prayer Shawls may be created by anyone interested in participating in this ministry. The Prayer Shawl box is located in the Parish Center office and can be reached during office hours. If you would like to donate, please drop your shawl off at the Prayer Shawl box.

If you would like to pick up a Prayer Shawl to deliver to a recipient:

- 1 – Select a Prayer Shawl from the box in the Parish Center Office during office hours.
- 2 – Select an appropriated note and decorative pin, both supplied in the shawl box, and attach the note to the shawl.
- 3 – Record the date you picked up the shawl and the recipient of the shawl on the log sheet provided so that recipients are not duplicated.
- 4 – Deliver the Prayer Shawl.

### **Social Justice & Action Commission Giving Tree Ministry**

We raised over \$1700 to purchased poinsettias for 15 homebound and those in nursing homes, we gave money to 3 families in our parish and the rest went to help families the Crisis Intervention Services supports. We appreciate the grade school kids for making Christmas Cards for those home bound and in nursing homes. We also appreciate all the donations to help make Christmas a little brighter.

### **Social Justice & Action Commission End of Month Meals**

A committee met to discuss the future of the EOMM in December, due to a decrease in Church participation, lower meal needs and COVID-19 the group decided to discontinue EOMM until COVID-19 is under control. The committee will meet in the future to determine how to proceed.

### **Social Justice & Action Commission Love In The Name Of Christ Foundations Class Meal**

Each quarter Love Inc. asks churches in our community to prepare a meal for the attendees of their Foundations Class. This course provides coaching and support on a variety of topics like budgeting, cooking, etc. St. Mary's will provide a meal for this course on April 8th



## ***Love In The Name Of Christ***

**Love in the Name of Christ** is a partnership of churches working together to help our neighbors in need through the Resource Center, Foundations Classes, Growing Place, Work Life, Mahaska Connect & future ministry opportunities.

To make the Thrift Store possible, we are approaching Mahaska County Churches, businesses, & individuals for support in raising \$100,000 cash and \$50,000 in pledges. Please help us share the Love of Christ with our neighbors by completing information on the back.

Any questions, contact Penny Adams, Volunteer Coordinator  
Phone: 641-638-2495  
Email: pennyadams1128@gmail.com  
Visit: <https://www.loveinmahaska.org/> to fill out a volunteer application

## ***Thrift Store Resale with a Purpose***



Volunteers needed in all departments  
Start-up Fundraising & Store Renovations  
Financing, Accounting & Marketing  
Receiving repurposed items  
Organizing inventory  
Pricing and displaying donations  
Training & Assisting with sales  
Providing customer service & love

Located at: to be finalized

## **Knight of Columbus Council.**

### **Helping Hands**

Is aimed to help all (regardless of faith) in need in our community. It helps to draw attention to the Catholic faith and attract catholic gentlemen to become Knights who in turn can join us in helping as many as we can.

We have completed 4 requests; gutter cleaning, wheel chair ramp, insulating an attic, and repairing a house trailer for winter weather. 2 more projects that are being worked on.

### **Meal Ideas for Lent**

40 Days of Soup - <http://bit.ly/2IYtgLa>  
Meatless Lenten Recipes - <http://bit.ly/2kk4DXB>

### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

are acts of compassion by which we  
help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

counsel the doubtful  
comfort the afflicted

instruct the ignorant  
bear wrongs patiently

admonish sinners  
pray for the living and the dead

### **The Corporal Works of Mercy**

are these kind acts by which we  
help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

feed the hungry  
shelter the homeless

give drink to the thirsty  
visit the sick

clothe the naked  
bury the dead

# Birthdays

<i><b>January</b></i>	<i><b>February</b></i>
3 Alondra Chavez 5 Armondo Vicente Gomez 7 Ezra Curry Oziah Curry 8 Mary Katherine Norberg 10 Isaiah Andersen Carter Blanco Aldo Lopez 17 Amber Knockel 21 Jeremiah Aubry 23 Flavio Velasquez 31 Thomas Phillips	1 Cecilia Nicolas 4 Garrett Loner 6 Gareth Stefanc 9 Ian Rosvold 10 Andrea Arellano 11 Dylan Purdum 14 Grady Kool Jace Goodman 17 Shelby Bower 27 Xavier Lemke 28 Donivan Tighe Cole Younger
<i><b>March</b></i>	<i><b>April</b></i>
4 Alex Yang 5 Aubree Kool 12 Nolan Miller 16 Alan Gonzalez 29 Ellie Henry Khydin Yang Salvador Gonzalez 31 Jacksen McClure  Birthdays listed are those of our younger parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office for corrections	4 Grace Norberg Noemi Rodriguez 7 Jack Miller 9 Grayson Bares 10 Trevor Willett 11 Brooke Richardson 19 Jenna Applegt 20 Stella Bares 22 Aidan Krejci Denaly Moreno-Martinez 24 Hadley Weber 26 Traiton Akers Melia Lopez 27 Clara Jenkins Nathan Kelderman 29 Alison Arellano

## Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Join us at Hy-Vee starting at 4:00 pm on  
 Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday,  
 for a fish dinner.

# Anniversaries

<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>
4 Jim & Richelle Holle - 29 7 Nicholas & Amanda Lusk - 4 9 Davie & Shawn Langkamp - 34 14 Kevin & Jeana Tacke – 12 23 Mark & Patricia Thompson - 6 25 Glenn & Susan Knox - 46 26 Lawrence & Helene Mitrison - 62 28 Dennis & Linda Gorley - 37 29 Jim & Lori Smith - 21 30 Craig & Mary Akers - 45	6 Angelo & Rose Dazzo - 50 15 Russ & Beth VanRentergham -35 17 Tom & Mary Rielly – 31 22 Tom & Theresa Sizemore - 33
<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>
4 Robert & Patricia Waters 32 Lowell & Harriet Lenarz 61 8 Brian & Amanda Lemke 13 10 Filiberto & Araceli Arellano 19 Al and Elaine Salanitro 33 12 Bart and Julie Yachera 9 15 Chris and Heidi Potot 18 17 Clayton and Laura Norberg 9 19 Tom and Madonna Bowie 38 23 Jerry and Lindy Brandt 30 31 Mike and Molly Sterner 32	8 Dennis and Mary Parks 21 10 Mark and Heidi Scholes 19 11 Lee and Colleen Dennis 40 14 Nic and Jenni Lynch 14 19 Ted and Judy Smith 62 20 Bob & Patti Mitrison 14 Steven and Annette Wanders 25 24 Marion and Marj Striegel 28 27 Doug and Pam Nimtzt 30
<p>Fr. Troy will be offering Catholicism 101            A six week Lenten Course on the basics of the Catholic Faith.</p> <p><b>Catholicism 101</b>            The topics are as follows:            Week 1: Prayer            Week 2: The Mass The Eucharist            Week 3: The Sacraments            Week 4: How to Read the Bible as a Catholic            Week 5: Judgment and Mercy (Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory)            Week 6: Discipleship            Links to these classes will be posted weekly on the parish Facebook page,            on our website, and be sent out in the weekly email updates.</p>	

# **2021 Lent Activities**

**Ash Wednesday February 17th**

**SMO**

**7:00 AM Mass**

**6:00 PM Mass**

**SMP**

**12:15 PM Mass**

**6:00 PM Word Service**

**Mass and Stations on Friday at 5:30 PM**

**SMO Stations**

**Feb. 19, March 5, March 19**

**SMO Mass**

**Feb. 26, March 12, March 26**

**SMP Mass**

**Feb. 19, March 5, March 19**

**SMP Stations**

**Feb. 26, March 12, March 26**

**Holy Thursday April 1st**

**SMO 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday April 2nd**

**SMO 3:00 PM**

**SMP 7:00 PM**

**Easter Vigil April 3rd**

**SMP 8:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday April 4th**

**SMO 8:00 AM**

**SMP 10:30 AM**