

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 11:00 AM—Mass (Mike Bell)

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Lenten Weekday (3)

- 6:00 PM—Liturgy Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM—Parish Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

Lenten Weekday;

- 9:00 AM—Communion Service, followed by Coffee
- 10:00 AM—Small group: *Sunday by Sunday*
- 6:30 PM—Faith Formation, K-8

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

Lenten Weekday;

- 6:30 PM—Evangelization Team Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

Lenten Weekday; (day of abstinence)

- 6:00 PM—Adoration and evening prayer
- 6:30 PM—Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

Lenten Weekday;

- 10:00 AM—Small group: *Sunday by Sunday*



"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son."
Luke 15:21



"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future."
Luke 13:8-9

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Is 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-11
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43
Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9
Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28
Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
Lk 11:14-23



Friday

Hos 14:2-10
Ps 81:6c-11b
Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6
Ps 51:3-4
Lk 18:9-14

Sunday

Jos 5:9a, 10-12
Ps 34:2-7
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Some Dates to Note

- March 26—Liturgy Committee Meeting
- March 26—Parish Council Meeting
- March 28—Evangelization Committee Meeting

Lenten Opportunities



Adoration: Starting on Friday, March 8, we will have a half hour of adoration beginning at 6:00 PM. We will pray evening prayer.

Stations of the Cross. Starting on Friday, March 8, we will pray the stations of the cross at 6:30 PM. (You may come for adoration, for the stations, or for both.)

Communion Service: We will have our regular communion service on Wednesday morning at 9:00.

Communal Reconciliation: Communal reconciliation service will be held on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 PM. (Other opportunities in the area will be listed in the bulletin in the future.)

The Word Among Us, Five Minutes with the Word and The Little Black Book: These daily meditation books are in the gathering space for you to take. They each offer a different daily meditation.

Rice Bowl: The rice bowls are available in the gathering space. Rice bowl is a perfect way to observe the three practices of Lent: prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

Parish Evangelization Team Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 6:30 PM

In response to Bishop Zinkula's Vision 20/020 initiative, each parish is asked to put together an evangelization team. Members of our team have attended the listening session in November and the Regional Discussion meeting in April. On March 28, we will gather to talk about how we proceed in the future. If you would like to be part of this team or just see what it is about, please join us.

Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over...
Thank you for your gifts.

- Envelopes\$1,157.25 (\$77.00 in auto tithing)
- Catholic Relief Services\$70.00
- Catholic Messenger\$58.00
- El Salvador Mission Trip\$60.00

Communal Reconciliation



We will have a communal reconciliation service on **Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 PM.** Plan now to join us and experience God's mercy and forgiveness.

Other opportunities:

- St. Mary's. Pella. Sunday, March 24, 2:00 PM
- Sacred Heart, Newton, Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 PM
- Ss. John and Paul, Altoona, Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM
- St. Anthony, Knoxville, Sunday, April 7, 4:00 PM

Faith Formation News

Regular classes on Wednesday, March 27, from 6:30 to 7:30.





FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

Lent is all about baptism. Lent grew out of the 40-day preparation period for those who desired to enter the church through baptism at the Easter season in the early church. As the church lost sight of the RCIA process, we forgot about Lent's connection to baptism. The Second Vatican Council restored the RCIA process (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which we bring adults into the church) and re-established Lent's connection to baptism.

Our Lenten tasks include preparing ourselves to fully celebrate the Paschal Mystery at Easter and to renew our baptismal vows at that time. At the Easter Vigil and at mass on Easter Sunday morning, we will as a community renew our baptismal vows. We do this every year. This is a solemn and important event. It should not be taken lightly. When we say we reject Satan and believe in the Trinity, the church, the resurrection, and life everlasting, we must consider carefully what we are saying and we must really mean it. If we do, then we must change our lives, turning ever closer to God and away from sin. We must enter fully into the Paschal Mystery, dying to sin and rising to new life.

This year, we again have no one preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. However, we will still celebrate the vigil (Fr. Thom Hennen will be with us) and we will still bless the baptismal font and renew our baptismal vows. The whole of our vigil celebration centers around the risen Christ who is the light that can never be overcome and baptism. On Easter Sunday morning, we will renew our baptismal vows and bless ourselves from the font.

Our baptismal font has been sealed. As a matter of practice (although not a strict rule) we don't celebrate baptisms during the Lenten season. Since this is the season to prepare for baptism, we wait until we have entered the Easter Season to actually baptize. Once Easter has arrived, we will have baptisms again.

We have entered into the quiet season of Lent where we prepare to renew our baptismal vows. I pray that we all spend the gift of Lent wisely and truly prepare for the Easter season, so that when that glorious Easter season arrives, we can renew our baptismal vows with true conviction and complete conversion.

God's abundant blessings

Dc. Joe



Call to Family, Community and Participation

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Call to Family, Community and Participation, we remember that human beings are social by nature—we need each other. We, like the early disciples, are called to come together and grow as a community—whether that community is in our classroom, workplace or family..

Encounter Christyan

Christyan DhathCroos is from a farming village in Sri Lanka, but he spent half of his life in India. He and his family fled there during Sri Lanka's civil war. He was only 14 years old when they left. When he returned to his homeland 16 years later, Christyan was 30, and the family farm was in shambles. He and his father found their fields covered in trees and filled with rocks. Now with a wife and family to provide for, Christyan needed help.

For a refugee, returning home after so many years can be challenging. That's why CRS is helping Christyan and others like him rebuild their lives. That means helping to clear overgrown sections of farmland and ensuring those farms have access to water. Christyan is now growing rice, pumpkin and peanuts. Because of the assistance from CRS, Christyan can give his family things he never had.

Things like education. Because his family was always fleeing violence during the war, Christyan never completed school. "I want to make sure my three children are educated," he says. "That's my dream. No one in our family has finished their education, but I know my children will."

Christyan's dream is coming true. With the profits from the family's farm, Christyan can send his 4-year-old son, Godwin, to a private Catholic preschool. It's worth the money to Christyan to help Godwin achieve his dream of becoming a scientist. And there are no doubts from Godwin's parents or the Sister who runs Godwin's school that he will achieve his dream.

Christyan isn't just teaching his family that they can achieve their dreams with the help of a good education—he's also making sure they understand the importance of helping others. "When we had nothing, CRS came and helped us, and now we have what we need. We should help others too."

Donations of Plastic Eggs and Candy Needed

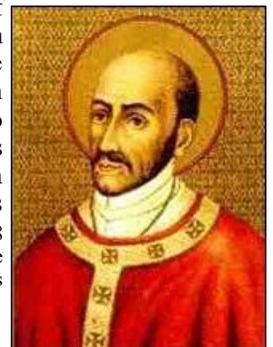
Once again this year, Altar and Rosary will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for the children following mass on Easter Sunday. Donations of eggs to fill and candy for the eggs would be greatly appreciated. We'll be filling the eggs on Saturday, April 6th, so will need the donations by that morning. Thanks to everyone for helping with this fun project.

Small Discussion Groups Wednesdays, 10:00 AM and Saturdays, 9:00 AM

We use *Sunday-by-Sunday* to open up and discuss the up-coming Sunday readings. Each session stands alone so you can join in anytime. You don't need to read anything before the group meeting. It is not too late. We meet in the family room in the lower level of the gathering space.

SAINT OF THE WEEK Toribio of Mogrovejo : 1538-1606 Feast Day—March 23

Spanish-born Toribio taught law in Salamanca until 1574, when he was appointed inquisitor of Granada. In 1580, though not yet a priest, he was named archbishop of Lima, Peru, with his episcopal ordination in Seville. After arriving in Lima in 1581, his 25 years of missionary service included diocesan and provincial synods, visits around the vast diocese, clergy reforms, and Indian-language catechisms. He also introduced European religious orders into Peru, opened the first seminary in the New World and encouraged Indians to become priests. Copyright ©2018 Catholic News Service—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



March 24, 2019—11:00 AM

Lectors: Sharon Jones & Linda Barnum
Eucharistic Ministers: Irma Bell, Elizabeth Birkenholtz, Susan Heggen, & Joann Carrothers
Altar Servers: Mackensie Brown & Matthew Holmes
Greeters: Bill & Meta Hill

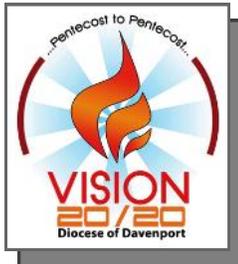
March 31, 2019—11:00 AM

Lectors: John Heggen & Terri Rosonke
Eucharistic Ministers: Claire Williams, Kathy Williams, Linda Barnum, & Sharon Jones
Servers: Will Owens & Rita Krueger
Greeters: Joann Carrothers & Karen Van Dusseldorp.



Pray for God's Peace and Joy

Please pray for:
Diane Wood
Wes Koebrick (Father of Linda Barnum)
Michael John Nelson, cousin of Mike Wood, nephew of Diane Wood
James and Edward cousins of Janette Baldwin and Claire Gillan
For all who have died.
For vocations, our parish, and our faith formation program.



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WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU DIDN'T READ *THE CATHOLIC MESSENGER.*

- ⇒ Responding to hate: interfaith groups show solidarity with victims.
- ⇒ Hope for Households: Resolving conflict in marriage in a loving way.
- ⇒ Deacon Cranston of St. Mary Parish-Riverside shares a Lenten reflection.
- ⇒ Georgetown troubled by involvement in scam.
- ⇒ Survey looks at Catholics' thoughts about leaving the church.
- ⇒ Rules keep God's house simply beautiful during Lent.
- ⇒ New Zealand bishops tell Muslims: 'We hold you in prayer.'

Columns

- ⇒ Fr. Sia: What are the signs of a vocation to the priesthood?
- ⇒ Fr. Doyle Q&A on annulment and response after receiving Eucharist.
- ⇒ Fr. Rolheiser: Lessons through failure.
- ⇒ Fr. Grant: Join the awakening to climate change.
- ⇒ Fr. Weber: We don't need to remake the church..

News to keep you informed from your award-winning Catholic Messenger!

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." Psalm 2:4
Psalm 2:4

Holy Humor

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

"

Auto-giving

Have you considered signing-up for auto-giving. Your contribution can be automatically credited either monthly or weekly. No hassles writing checks or remembering to contribute if you miss a week. **And it is green—good for the environment.** When you sign-up for auto-giving, we can cancel your envelopes saving paper, the energy to deliver them and the cost to the parish. It is fast, easy, and safe. Consider signing up today. Applications and FAQ are available in the gathering space or on line at www.immaculateconceptioncolfax.org

A Stewardship Moment

March 24, The Third Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel Jesus offers his parable about last chances. The fig tree will have one last chance to bear fruit before it is cut down and destroyed. Good stewards realize that, like the fig tree, they are endowed with God-given gifts that are meant to "bear fruit" for God and neighbor. God has legitimate expectations of them. They also realize they do not know how much time they have left before the gardener returns for an accounting of their fruitfulness. How are we using our God-given gifts? How might we use our gifts to bear more fruit? The answer requires some urgency.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

To report child abuse contact: Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178 and if it involves clergy or church personnel also notify Alicia Owens, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, 563-349-5002; vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.