

ST. ALPHONSUS

DAVENPORT

ST. PETER

BUFFALO

Pastor: Rev. Paul J. Appel

Residence: 2618 Boies Avenue • Davenport, Iowa 52802
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E-mail: staldav@gmail.com
Web Page: www.stalphonsusdav.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Nicholas Akindele

Residence: 1923 Fillmore St. • Davenport, Iowa 52804
Phone: (563) 322-0901
Email: davyholymfamily@diodav.org
Web Page: www.holyfamilydavenport.com

Office Hours: Monday — Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Paige King — Administrative Assistant
Susan Marshall — Bulletin

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

Religious Education Director

Mary Ann Hagemann.....391-8593

RCIA Director

Sister Susan Rueve, O.S.F.....323-1502

ST. ALPHONSUS EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION CENTER

Shelly McIntosh, Director.....323-3204

ST. PETER CHURCH — BUFFALO

406 4th Street, Buffalo, IA 52728

Deacon Larry Dankert.....381-2741

Parish Council President

Larry Cawiezell.....381-5288

Religious Education

Elementary - Nancy Stalder.....381-2058

Intermediate - Scott Heskett.....381-4991

PARISH SACRAMENTS

- **Baptism:** Baptismal preparation class by appointment.
- Please contact office for more information.

- **Weddings:** Make arrangements pastor at least six months before the wedding date. Dates and times for wedding in both parishes must be scheduled by contacting the pastor.

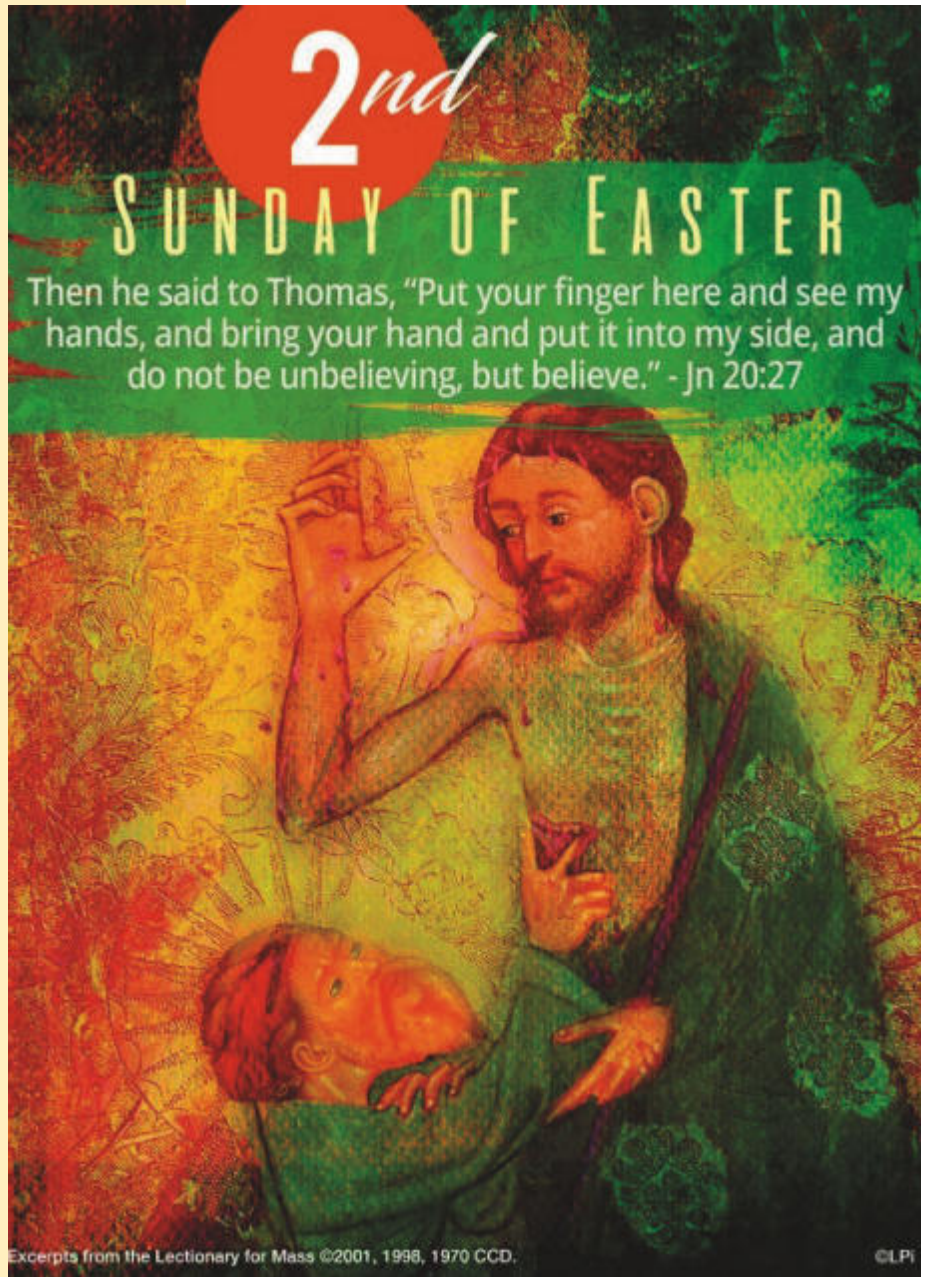
- **RCIA:** Classes begin mid-Sept for adults wishing to join the Catholic church and/or wanting to enter more fully by receiving the other sacraments. Please contact the parish office to register.

- **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING:** Call 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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:00 PM	St. Alphonsus
Sunday	8:00 AM	St. Alphonsus
	10:00 AM	St. Peter

Confessions beginning at 3 pm on Saturdays before 4:00 PM Mass. Available by appointment, please call the parish office.



APRIL 11, 2021--2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

GENERAL NEWS

From Father's Desk

Growing Pains

You may have noticed that our Mass attendance has been growing this Spring. At Buffalo's outdoor Mass on Sunday, we had 120 people! Even without the Covid restrictions that crowd would not have fit inside the building. St. Al's is just about at capacity and it is getting harder to find a seat. Holy Family English Masses are looking full and the Latin Mass is well over capacity. I would like to add more Mass times, but this would only be a temporary solution. In the coming years we will have even more priestly retirements coming, so it is more likely that we will have to reduce the number of Masses since there will be fewer and fewer priests to celebrate them. My hope is that we will retain our current assignments here for a few more years, but I can't guarantee it.

Before Covid stopped all in-person gatherings, I had a number of meetings with our Long-Range planning commission (The Saint Gregory Commission) to explore our options. At that time, I presented three options for our future:

1. Do nothing and reduce the number of Masses to the bare minimum that one priest can do. This would mean going to 0, 1, or 2 Masses at each church on the weekend.
2. Consolidate all services to one site, such as Holy Family, and hold all Masses there.
3. Construct a church building at a new site that could accommodate all of our parishioners.

While none of these options would be easy, it is time to seriously consider what the future holds for us. I will be scheduling some town-hall style meetings to look over our findings and discuss our plans. There will be time to ask questions and offer any insights you have. The times are:

- Holy Family Church, Wednesday, April 21, 6 PM; April 24, After evening Mass
- Saint Alphonsus Church, Wednesday April 28, 6 PM; May 1, After evening Mass

I have already consulted with Bishop Zinkula and the other priests of our deanery on this matter. They all agree that we need a plan for the future, and will support whatever we come up with. Based on current trends, we can expect our parishes to grow while the number of clergy will decrease, at least in the short term. The best solution is to encourage more young men to enter the priesthood, but formation takes a long time and we are not the only churches in need of priests!

I encourage you to pray about this matter and keep an open mind. Growing pains hurt, but growth is a good thing. Pray that Our Lady watches over us and the Holy Spirit guides our conversation.

-Fr. Paul

Fish Fry Appreciation Dinner

The 2021 Lenten Fish Fry's were successful beyond belief. Despite having to streamline the menu, completely revamp the method of service, and meet COVID safety guidelines our volunteers served nearly 5,900 meals over the six weeks. In appreciation all those who volunteered and worked in some capacity for the Fish Fry's are invited to an appreciation dinner to be held at the Knights of Columbus (Columbus Club), 1111 W. 35th St. Davenport, on Sunday, April 25th at 1 pm. If you did not sign up at the Fish Fry please call Ron at 563-210-9971 or the rectory at 563-322-0987 no later than April 21st.

Birdies for Charity Update

The 2021 John Deere Classic is fast approaching and so is Birdies for Charity! As with many things, there are some major program changes this year. First, only flat donations will be accepted; there will be no per birdie pledges. Due to capacity limitations at TPC Deere Run there will be no complimentary tickets issued. And finally, credit card donations can be made on-line. St. Alphonsus Family and Friends will receive a letter and pledge form in the mail with more details. Please continue to support St. Al's as you have in the past. Call Ron at 563-210-9971 or the rectory at 563-322-0987 with any questions.

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Appel and Fr. Anstey October 4-15, 2021

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Since our youth we have heard the Gospel stories about the Lord Jesus walking and teaching in Jerusalem, Capernaum, and Galilee. We will be seeing those places and much more. Our visit will give us an opportunity of walking in the footsteps of Jesus, our Blessed Mother Mary and the very first disciples. Each day we will celebrate Mass at one of the holy places and reflect on the gospel text appropriate to the place we visit. This pilgrimage will forever change the way you read and understand the Scriptures. We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a grace-filled journey to the land from where it all started.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Paul Appel and Fr. Kevin Anstey

View itinerary and book online at:
www.holylandtc.com/trips/holy-land-pilgrimage/

Abortion is not health care, because killing is not healing.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:13-15,17-19/ Ps 4:2,4,7-8,9/
1Jn 2:1-5a/**

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

ST. ALPHONSUS – DAVENPORT

Parishioners will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday's at 3 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS - APRIL 12 - 18

Mon.	8:00	NO MASS
Tues.	8:00	NO MASS
Wed.	7:15	NO MASS
Thurs.	8:00	Carol Jean Dudley†
Fri.	8:00	Mike Gallagher†
Sat.	4:00	Patricia Scott†
Sun.	8:00	Pro Populo

St Alphonsus Weekly Offerings April 3 & 4
Weekly Budget: \$4,250 Offering: \$6,424

ST. PETER – BUFFALO

MASS INTENTION - APRIL 18

Sun. 10:00 Lynn Corpstein†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today Apr. 11	Second Sunday of Easter 08:30 AM Elementary Religious Ed/ St. Peter
Wed. Apr. 14	06:30 PM Religious Ed/ St. Alphonsus
Sat. Apr. 17	10:00 AM Eucharistic Minister training/ St. Alphonsus 10:30 AM Lector training/ St. Alphonsus Following 4 PM Mass EM & Lector training/ St. Alphonsus
Sun. Apr. 18	Third Sunday of Easter 08:30 AM Elementary Religious Ed/ St. Peter 06:00 PM Intermediate Religious Ed/ St. Peter

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Eye Has Not Seen

They say seeing is believing. But if you've ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that's not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons.

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn't bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction.

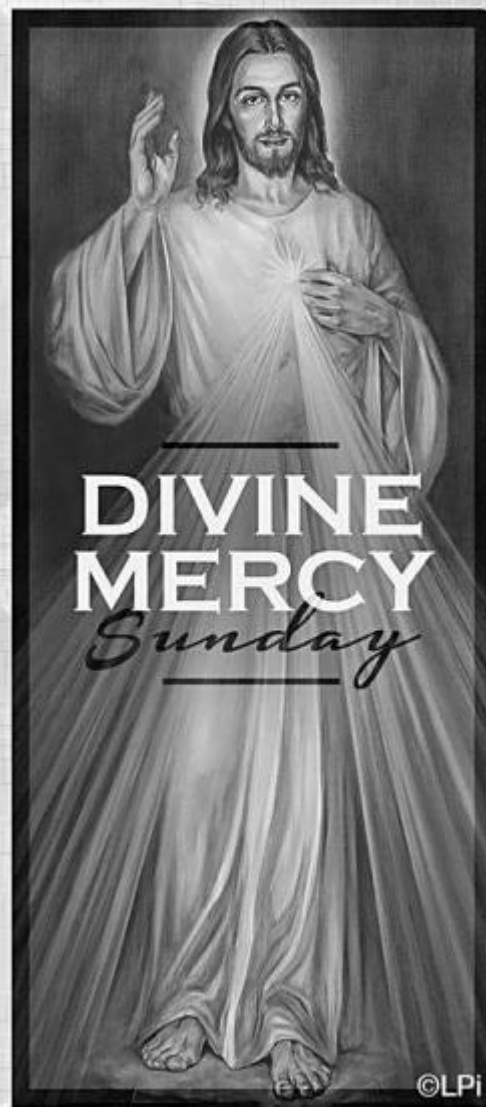
Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we haven't seen it with our own two eyes?

That's when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants.

It's easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, "you didn't believe the testimony of your friends!" But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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