

The mission of St. Mary Parish is to make Christ real in our communities by living the gospel, worshipping together, & serving others.

May 8, 2021 • Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saint Mary

2700 Horton Rd • Waverly, IA 50677

Parish Office

Hrs: M-Th 8am-4:30pm;
F 8am-2pm

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Bulletin Deadline: Mon. 3pm

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Jennifer Siech, Elaine Lawler,
Trent Lockard, Kris Dunkin,
Jeff Keen, Jenne Seward

Faith Formation Commission:
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Bill Flege, Jennifer Nus, Becky
Prostine, Mariah Stauffer

Finance Council: Steve Phye,
Scott Danner, Kelly Flege, Joe
Barber, Becky Willson, Becky
David

Bulletin & Worship Aid - Please take this with you when you leave so volunteers do not need to remove it! Thank you!

Candle Memorials:

Emiel Engels Tim Demuth
Don McEnany Shirley Schulte
Patricia Howell
Special Intention for Health

Worship Schedule

Tues	4:30 pm	Rosary by Zoom
Tues	5:30 pm	Donna Latch
Wed	8:00 am	Bob Coonradt
Thurs	8:00 am	Sadie Byrnes Family
Fri	8:00 am	Leo Rasing
Sat	4:00-4:50 pm	Reconciliation
Sat	5:15 pm	Charles McCready
Sun	8:00 am	For the People
Sun	9:35 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
Sun	10:00 am	Derek Merkel
Sun	2:00 pm	Profession Mass

Daily Mass cancelled if funeral scheduled.

Prayer Concerns: Gertrude Boeckman, Jeffrey Traeger, Donna Nelson, Carter Stevens, Ruth Schissel, Megan Smith, Carol Bolton, Bill Rechkemmer, Fr Lou Jaeger, Harold Iverson, Joanne Zrostlik, Virgil Birgen, Rhonda Kalainoff, Mary "Cookie" Dreesman

Please pray for the family of Donna Latch, mother of Helen (& Joe) Melichar, who died May 3.

Profession Mass: Susan May is making her profession with the St Mary Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order on Sunday, May 16, 2pm Mass here at St Mary. The Mass is open to anyone who wants to attend.

Friends, Faith & Fire

The Knights of Columbus invite all men 18+ years olds of the parish to Friends, Faith & Fire on **Tues, May 11, 8pm**

at the parish firepit (eastside of building) for a casual gathering of prayer & fellowship. Bring a lawn chair & join us!



Sat, May 22 &/or
Sat, June 26

Give a family help & hope! A decent home provides strength, stability & independence. Join us! Contact the office or Wayne Green for more info or to volunteer.

Honoring Mary

During the month of May we will be paying special honor to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and patroness of our parish. We will be moving our indoor statue of Mary to the hall and invite you to bring potted plants or cut flowers to place around her.

***"I have told you this so that
my joy may be in you
And your joy might be
complete.
This is my commandment: love
one another as I love you.
No one has greater love than
this, to lay down one's life for
one's friends" - John 15: 11-13***

Several months ago, I received an email to write an article for the church bulletin about my adoption experiences and its impact on my faith. It stated, "it would be wonderful to hear about your experience with adoption and how that has tied in with your faith journey." My initial response was laughter, as it had been quite some time since I used the words "adoption" and "wonderful" in the same sentence, because it had also been quite some time since I prioritized my time and motivation to reflect on my faith journey. I was fairly certain sharing these details from my personal life would trigger significant anxiety, distress and in general make life harder so I sent the following response: "I would be very interested in writing something, but the timing right now is tough. Would it be possible to write something this May, which I think is National Adoption Month?" I secretly hoped the request would magically disappear and I could avoid the discomfort connected to sharing my story. However, it turns out God is patient and persistent (and also has a great sense of humor) because a global pandemic only delayed the writing of this article and it turns out May is not National Adoption Month.

When I finally accepted the reality I would be writing an article (which occurred about 12 hours prior to turning it in), I noticed my experiences with adoption began many years before I actually started parenting. During my youth, my parents provided short-term foster care primarily for infants while potential adoptive and/or biological parents finalized decisions. Upon meeting my husband, I learned his mom had been working several years at an adoption agency facilitating international adoptions. During college I ended up pursuing degrees in Psychology and Social Work, and spent many years working with youth in out-of-home placements and also supporting families as they navigated their way through the world of foster care and adoption. Yet, it took several years of my own infertility before it occurred to me perhaps God could have been using all of these experiences to prepare me, my husband and our extended family members for building our family through adoption.

As I reflect on my faith prior to adopting our kids, it reminds me of "Acting As If" which is a skill I use often when trying to tolerate and/or get through difficult times in life. I went through the "motions" of my faith, which included attending Mass regularly, participating in a small group with other couples, (occasionally) reading the Bible or books about topics related to faith/spirituality and praying...which was more like arguing

or yelling at God. It was a difficult time, but it was unlike previous chapters of my life that included increased loss and pain where I found myself creating more distance, having more anger and being filled with more than my usual thoughts of doubt. Regardless, during the season of life prior to kids, I found myself active in my relationship with God, even if I felt like I was only going through the motions the majority of the time.

Eventually, we started building our family and adopted our (youngest) daughter as an infant in March 2011. In January 2013 we welcomed a sibling group of three (3 1/2 year old twins and their 8-year-old sister) and we grew from a family of 3 to 6 overnight. I don't remember many details from those first years together, but I do distinctly remember hauling the kids to church quite regularly and simply stated, it was not wonderful. But, as we quite literally wrestled kids off of each other and rescued a few from the top of vehicles, roofs and tall trees, it felt like my relationship with God started mirroring the process I was moving through with our kids on a daily basis. There were more abrupt shifts in emotions and behaviors, not only displayed by the kids, but I found myself yelling both in my head and out loud at God (like "Praise God" or "Good Lord" or most often "Jesus Give me Grace") when celebrating the small victories in each day. Like simply surviving another day, or the times when they would all be sleeping at the same time or the days they all arrived and stayed at school and I could enjoy work for the day. I also would pray (or more accurately yell...loudly) "Give me Patience" multiple times throughout a day, which really was more of a demand and maybe not even a prayer at all. However, the pain of our new reality was present too and I found myself wrestling with God and myself around doubts if we made the best decisions for each of the kids, anger (and underneath the anger sadness and worry) about the severity of some emotional and behavioral issues our kids were carrying, ongoing sadness and worry around how our plunge into parenthood was affecting our marriage (and our physical and mental health), and constant worry about the future. As a result, my relationship evolved into more of "wrestling" with God and was loud, messy and something I had not experienced in my faith journey. But, in the midst of the pain and sadness many days brought, I also found moments of authentic joy and a profound love that I am not going to even attempt to put into words. The depth of my relationship with God was growing (and continues to), as was the relationships with my children.

As I read through the scriptures for this week I recognized, once again, the importance of continuing to love God, myself, others (including those with different political beliefs) and my children well. Christ actually commands it stating:

GLORY TO GOD:

(Refrain) **Glory to God. Glory to God. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, on earth peace to people of God will.**

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father. (Refrain)

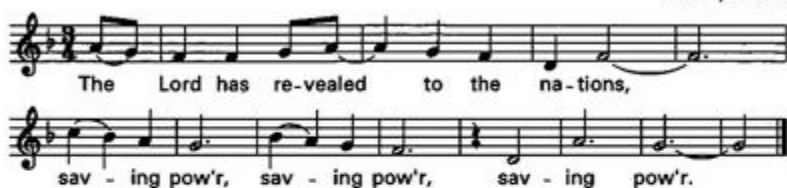
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand, the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. (Refrain)

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (Refrain)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

PSALM 98: THE LORD HAS REVEALED

Timothy R. Smith



1. Sing a new song, all you lands, of the marvelous deeds of the Lord. Salvation is born of God's right hand and holy arm.
2. The saving power of God has been revealed to all the lands. His kindness and truth forever faithful to the house of Israel.
3. All of the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God. Shout to the Lord, dance for joy, sing your praise.
4. Play out your song on the harp, create a melodious song. With trumpets and horn acclaim our King and our God.

Text: Psalm 98:2, 1-4. Refrain text © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music and verses text © 1996, 2000, Timothy R. Smith. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

COMMUNION: (Refrain) We are many parts, we are all one body, and the gifts we have we are given to share. May the Spirit of love make us one indeed; one, the love that we share, one, our hope in despair, one, the cross that we bear.

Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: Marty Haugen. Text and music ©1980, 1986, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

SONGS FOR MAY 8-9, 2021 Entrance: Christ, the Lord, is Risen Today **Preparation of the Gifts:** Christians, Let us Love One Another **Communion:** We Are Many Parts **Sending:** Blessed By Your Sacrifice

During Communion, a minister will come to your row. As you are approached, stand to receive the Body of Christ. Please leave your masks on until the minister passes by.

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Reading I Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being." Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

We will not be passing a collection basket. Donation Boxes are available at both church entrances for your convenience & safety. Thanks for your gifts to St Mary's ministries.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends"

This kind of love appears to be one of action and sacrifice, commitment, loyalty, courage and vulnerability. I believe it is one of the hardest things we are called to do and something we have an opportunity to work on each day. To learn to choose love over fear, then continue to choose love despite getting hurt and possibly rejected by the very ones we are working so hard to love (including ourselves) each day sounds rather terrifying if I am being honest. But I also am reminded of these words Christ speaks just before issuing the commandment to love:

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you. And your joy might be complete"

Joy is not an emotion that comes particularly easy for me, but in choosing to try and love well—which is hard and some days requires a lot of repairing with everyone around me including God and the cats—I have found a joy that is quiet and complete. It rarely lasts more than a few seconds but it is exactly what I need during this rather exhausting part of my faith journey.

- Chassity Deur

Reading II 1 Jn 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Gospel Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (up)
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Calendar: May 10-16

Mon: Peace & Justice, 7pm, zoom

Tues: Liturgy Committee, 9:30am, room B

Knights of Columbus, 7pm, room B

Faith, Friends & Fire (KC's), 8pm, eastside
firepit

Thurs: Deliver Food Backpacks to W-SR schools -
volunteers needed, 8:30am, hall.

Parish Life, 7pm, room B & zoom

Fri: Men's Group, 7am, room B

Sat-Sun: Peanut Butter Collection in hall

Sun: RCIA, 11am

From Archbishop Jackels...

In our fight against the COVID, we're close to victory. But some people think it'll be a hard-sell to get those who still aren't vaccinated to join in the fight.

So, if you aren't vaccinated against the COVID, and if you're 16 years old and up, and if you don't have a medical reason that prevents you...

Please get vaccinated at your earliest convenience, regardless of which vaccine is being offered.

The Catholic Church is in favor of vaccination in general, out of devotion to the common good of public health, and as a way to practice love of neighbor.

It is also in favor, or at least not opposed to getting the COVID vaccines, asserting in the strongest terms that getting them is no way a moral problem.

In fact, the Pope (and the archbishop) has received the COVID vaccine, and encourages people, if the vaccine is offered, get it, no questions asked.

Vaccination is the best way to stop the spread of coronavirus. So, unless we want to practice distancing and mask-wearing until Jesus comes again, get vaccinated.



Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly offertory budget \$8,913

Gifts May 2, 2021:

Offering Gifts.....\$5,773

On-Line Offering\$3,227

Food Pantry Gifts\$265

Loose Offering\$170

Fiscal Yr July2020 - May 2, 2021:

Offertory Received ...\$398,687

Budget Yr-to-Date.....\$392,192

Overage..... + \$6,495

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We have come to know and to believe in
the love God has for us.
God is love, and whoever remains in love
remains in God and God in him.
-1 John Chapter 4

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