

Cluster Parishes

Dec 6, 2020

Riverside Richmond Wellman

"To Know God and Make God Known Through Word, Worship, Fellowship, and Service"



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

Mass Intentions

Dec 9 to Dec 13

Wed 8:30am	SJ	Joseph Kolosiek Family
Thu 8:30am	HT	Richard Welte
Fri 8:30am	SM	Lois Carraux
Sat 5:00pm	SJ	Maxine Houseal
Sun 8:00am	HT	People of the Cluster
Sun 10:00am	SM	Roberta Jenn

St. Mary's

Weekly Goal	\$ 1,677
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 27,899
YTD Goal	\$ 36,894
Under/Over	- \$ 8,995

Holy Trinity

Weekly Goal	\$ 1,542
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 16,775
YTD Goal	\$ 33,924
Under/Over	- \$ 17,149

St. Joseph's

Weekly Goal	\$ 644
Actual	\$ -
YTD* Collection	\$ 3,712
YTD Goal	\$ 14,168
Under/Over	- \$ 10,456

Pastor

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Deacon

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Merging

As some of you have read in the Catholic Messenger, we have been contemplating merging in order to be in accordance with the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese. Some things to note:

- Within the next year—out of our 55 active priests in the Davenport Diocese - 12 will be 70 years old and eligible for retirement. That will leave us with 33 active priests
- Within the next 10 years, it is expected there will be only one priest per county
- There are no plans of closing any parish in our Cluster if we merge, and each parish will get the individual attention they have always received
- Our parishes have nothing to lose, but will gain in assets and investment from each other

After we merge, most parishioners will not see any real difference in how we operate, or even recognize that a merger has even taken place.

Please note though:

- “Cluster Parishes” is not a canonical name and we will have to be creative in renaming our Cluster
- Some examples would be “St. Joseph’s of the Holy Family, St. Mary’s of the Holy Family, or Holy Trinity of the Holy Family”, keeping our individual identities
- Another example could be “St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s of the Holy Trinity” (again, keeping our individual identities)

No names have been decided, but I would like for everyone to contemplate upon this. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. We will be three small voices in our Diocese, but one family with a stronger voice. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

May God Bless You
- Fr Bill

Fr. Bill's Weekly Reflection

Below is Fr Bill's Reflection from last week

We all go through tough times throughout our lives, and It is good to look back and see how these experiences shaped us. As Isaiah says in the first reading this weekend, "Father; we are the clay, and you are the potter: we are the work of your hands."

Some of you may have experienced the same difficulties I did, like growing up witnessing raging fights between your parents. Always living in fear they would divorce because these fights seemed to happen every weekend.

Perhaps you got married for all the wrong reasons, because you did not know what love was as a child, and when the marriage failed, you felt you would be alone for the rest of your life. But then you married a woman who exuded love in every fiber of her being, teaching you what real love is, only to lose her to breast cancer.

The next part of this spiritual exercise is to look back and see how God was there the whole time, carrying you through your trials and tribulations. I learned many valuable lessons during these dark times and can see how the Lord was shaping me as a potter shapes his clay.

I learned from my childhood experiences what I did not want my children to go through. I learned from my first marriage, what a self-centered person I was, and how desiring material things over relationships was consuming my life. I eventually remarried, and my wife passed on to me a faith in God that cannot be shaken.

Rather than blaming God for my mistakes, I can now recognize these situations as blessings in disguise. I realize I have become a better person through those painful episodes in my life. All of us need to be willing to learn from our mistakes and allow God to shape us, no matter how painful it may be.

So, what are you experiencing in your life today? How is God shaping you through the hardships you experience? Are you able to learn from them and become a better person?

May God Bless You Always!
- Fr Bill

Cluster Parishes Christmas Spirit of Giving

Due to the Coronavirus, HACAP will not be accepting toys and distributing them to families this year. However, there are a couple of other opportunities to assist families during this Christmas Season:

- Toys for Tots will be collecting new toys at the Sycamore Mall
- KC Winter Clothes Collection (see below)
- HACAP is distributing gift cards to families in need. You can support these families by giving a monetary donation by going to: www.hacap.org
 - Then tab HOW TO HELP"
 - Then tab ADOPT A FAMILY"
 - Then tab DONATE HERE"
- You may add a note to which county in which you would like this donation to be allocated

Hope you and your family has a Healthy and Safe Holiday Season!

KC Winter Apparel and Clothes Collection

On the weekend of Dec 19th and 20th, the Knights of Columbus will be collecting winter apparel and clothes after Mass for an hour. We ask that all items be laundered before you bring them. Thank you.

Thank You

Little Flower Court #1181 received a check for \$750.00 from the National Catholic Society of Foresters to repair to the building foundation at Holy Trinity Since the fall dinner fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid -19 their Helping Hands Program reimbursed us half of the \$1,500.00 matching funds usually attained through our Country Store sales. We thank NCSF for these funds.

- Bette Brant, President, Little Flower Court #1181

Congratulations

Congratulations and welcome to the Catholic Faith Loretta Sue Tate who was baptized last weekend at St. Joseph's. Loretta is the daughter of Levi and Tara (Mann) Tate.

Congratulations

Congratulations and welcome to the Catholic Faith Bennett D. Schott who was baptized last weekend at St. Mary's. Bennett is the son of Tom and Joslin (Ferguson) Schott.

Prayers and Sympathy

Prayers and Sympathy to the family of John Snyder who passed away on November 23rd.



Emmaus Groups

Please consider joining a “Discipleship Quad” to participate in an Emmaus Group.

These are four-person prayer groups that are very informal and flexible to accommodate your schedule. Infor-

mation and videos can be found at clusterparishes.org. Click the “Communications & Resources” tab, and click on Emmaus Groups.

You may also contact Dcn Derick derick-cranston@gmail.com (319) 936-0927, or Fr Bill roushw@diodav.org (319) 430-6888.

Let Us Pray For an End to This Pandemic

As a priest, we have a prayer for each vestment that can be prayed as we put it on in preparation for the Mass. I suggest that each of us make this a new habit when we done our mask for the first time each day during this pandemic.

A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

“Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen”

- Rev. Richard Bott

We must keep in mind that wearing a mask is not just a device that we put on out of fear that we may catch Covid-19, but that it is an act of love for our neighbor that helps prevent the spread of the virus to those who are elderly and compromised (i.e. our parents, grandparents, etc.). My hope is this helps us realize the value of having compassion for those most vulnerable.

May God Bless You Always!
- Fr. Bill, Deacon Derick, and the Staff
of the Cluster Parishes

When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them. It may take seconds to say, but for them, it could last a lifetime.



The biggest difference between money and time: You always know how much money you have but you never know how much time you have. **Enjoy every moment of your life!**



Little Books

Little Books – the plain covered books with reflections on Advent, Christmas, etc. - can be ordered from littlebooks.org.

They are available in paper and e-book formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices. Go to littlebooks.org/app

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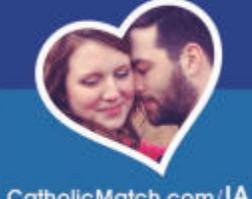
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