

4th Sunday of Easter / April 25, 2021

SAINT AGATHA

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P.O. Box 100 Howard, SD 57349-0100

CHURCH of the EPIPHANY

106 Jackson Street • Epiphany, SD
P.O. Box 100 Howard, SD 57349-0100

SAINT WILLIAM

120 W 3rd Street • Ramona, SD
P.O. Box 100 Howard, SD 57349-0100

MASS TIMES

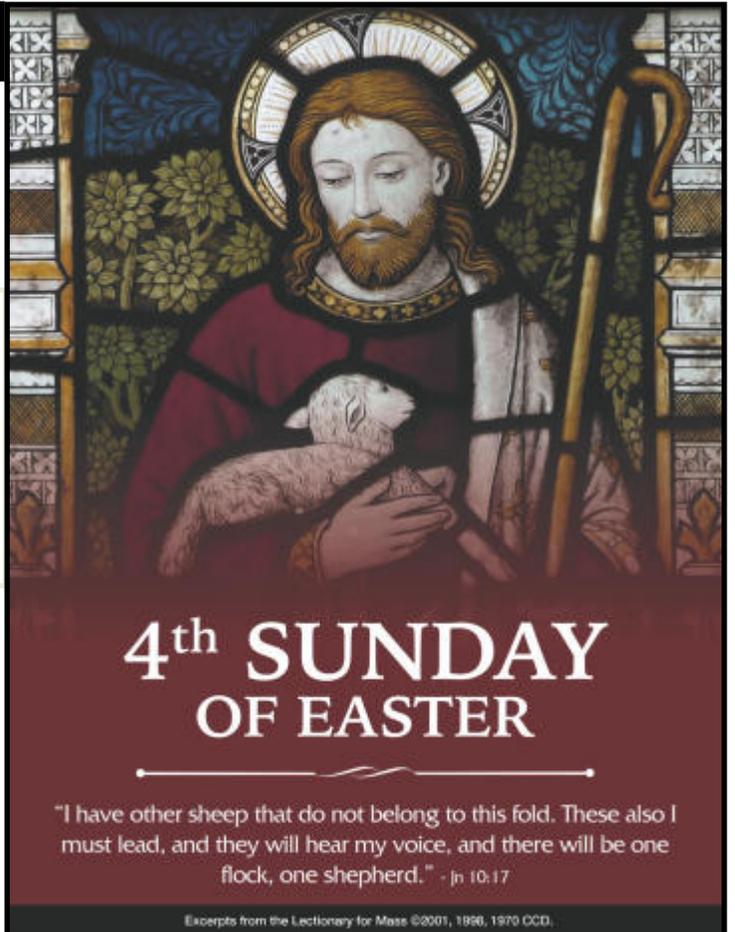
Saturday: 5:00pm Ramona
Sunday: 8:30am Epiphany
10:30am Howard
Daily Mass: See Inside
Holy Day Mass times: TBA

CONFESSIONS

Saturday
2:00-3:00pm Howard
Before Mass in Epiphany.
Before Mass in Ramona.
Also, by appointment.

Fr. Chester Murtha Office – (605) 772-5564
Cell - (605) 940-1034

Send bulletin information to Nancy Erickson
nrerrickson2000@yahoo.com or 605-770-5944
Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 3pm



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." - Jn 10:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 OCD.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The cornerstone is the first stone that is laid and the stone that not only determines how the other stones are placed but the position of the entire structure. As human beings, we need a cornerstone or reference point so that our lives can be properly placed and positioned. Our cornerstone determines not only how we see ourselves but who we will become. Without a cornerstone or reference point, we will be disconnected, disoriented, and poorly positioned for effective action in our world. In order to be the children of God we are, Jesus Christ needs to be our cornerstone and the reference point for all that we do. He alone is the Good Shepherd who can guide through life's questions and challenges, bringing us to proper pasture. Without this proper base, we can easily fall into the trap of self-aggrandizement and quickly lose our way. If that happens, then moral principles, proper conduct, justice, wisdom, and virtue will be difficult to find. We need to listen to the right voices and allow God to show us how to build our house well. Salvation only comes from God and only God will protect us, no matter the cost. ©LPi

SACRAMENTS

Engaged?

Call at least six months before the wedding date regarding marriage instructions.

New parents or expecting?

Call for pre-baptism class and to schedule a baptism.

Going in for surgery or for a procedure?

Call so I can give you the Sacrament of the Sick.

Cemetery Questions?

In Howard, contact Tim or Karla Neises at 772-4832.
In Epiphany contact Joe Zens at 523-2644.
In Ramona contact Tammy Lembcke at 482-8652.



Fr. Murtha's Musings:

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is celebrated Sunday, April 25, 2021 which is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his

harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops on their website has posted these two "Prayers of the Faithful":

For young men and women; that God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; and for the gift of courage to follow His call. We pray to the Lord. . .

For young people; that they may know the personal love of the Lord for them, and respond with open and generous hearts. We pray to the Lord. . .

The diocesan directory issued in September 2020 listed 18 men in seminary formation for the diocese of Sioux Falls; that's college level, theology level and one is noted as in a "Formation Year." We are quite blessed to have these numbers in formation in our diocese but there will always be a need for more. In fact, five priests were listed in the April edition of *The Bishop's Bulletin* as being relieved of their assignments and are permitted to retire, including our beloved Fr. Michael Schneider. So prayers are indeed needed.

On March 19, Pope Francis referred to St. Joseph as a model for vocations in a message he prepared for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Pope illustrates how St. Joseph said "yes" to the vocation God offered Joseph to be husband of Mary and earthly father to Jesus. God's call took Joseph to places he could not have imagined but Joseph's faith in God spurred on his saying yes. The Pope writes, "God's call always urges us to take a first step, to give ourselves, to press forward. There can be no faith without risk. Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programs and comforts, can we truly say "yes" to God. And every "yes" bears fruit because it becomes part of a larger design, of which we glimpse only details, but which the divine Artist knows and carries out, making of every life a masterpiece." Further on, the Pope invites the intercession of St. Joseph for vocations, "May he [St. Joseph] help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God's dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say "yes" to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints."

If a person is discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life and has questions regarding what steps to take, I would love to be of service to you. Contact me at my rectory number. And may you all have a blessed week!

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Celebrating First Holy Communion – Typically, Easter is the time when our young people take part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. Parents in all three parishes have been preparing their children for this momentous sacrament of God's love. The following children have been scheduled to receive Holy Communion for the first time: Adrian Riedel at St. William Parish on April 17; Brock Connor and Macie Jeffery at St. Agatha Parish on April 18; Luke Endorf, Kannon Kampshoff, Adisyn and Ledger Wingen at Epiphany Parish on April 25; and Tucker Parady and Jaxson Anderberg at St. Agatha Parish on April 25. We still have a couple more preparing to go at St. Agatha Parish for later on but we wish God's greatest blessings upon these young people!

Reception/Breakfast at Epiphany church hall after Mass on Sunday, April 25. All parishioners are welcome to join the families of the First Communicants for breakfast at the church hall after the Mass to celebrate.

Open House Bridal Shower for Macy Erickson, Bride-to-Be of Keaton Hoyer, on Sunday, April 25th from 2pm-4pm at the Howard Golf Course. The couple is registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond. A June 19th wedding is planned.

St. Agatha Parish- Please pick up a copy of the new ministry schedule located at the church entrances or view on the St. Agatha Facebook page.

Join the NET team for a night of fun at a parish in your region. This event is a great opportunity to re-energize your faith, receive additional faith formation, and to develop relationships with other faith-driven families in your region. Check out the diocesan website for more information: <https://www.sfcatholic.org/youth/encounter-events-net/>.

Catholic Family Services Counseling-Are you dealing with difficulties in your life? We have professional, caring counselors who are available to provide individual, marriage, and family counseling. Please call us at 605-988-3775 to schedule an appointment.

Bishop DeGrood is scheduled to confer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on twelve youth from St. Agatha Parish on Wednesday, May 5 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Madison. Confirmandi are: Kate Connor, Ryder Erickson, Josie Hodges, Lane Hodges, Elizabeth Martian, Emily Mentele, Jack Neises, Samantha Winker, Tanner Calmus, Brayden Hinker, Aleya Kizer and Cole Mentele.

HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?



GLP

Ministry Schedule- May 1 & 2

5:00pm—Ramona
 Lector: Donna Rensch
 EM: Nancy Dinges
 Server: Volunteer
 Offertory: Larry & Pam Malcomb
 Usher: John Bauer & Volunteer

8:30am-Epiphany
 Lector: Lisa Brown
 EM: Jean Klinkhammer
 Servers: Paige Endorf & Chloe Schmitt
 Offertory: Loren Eich Family
 Usher: Joe Zens, Cory Eich, Ben & Kelly Endorf
 Rosary: Larry & Diane Eich
 Music: Kim Miller & Pat Zens

10:30am—Howard
 Lector: Janet Kizer & Briar Feldhaus
 EM: Kim Eggert & Dave Miller
 Servers: Karsyn & Trent Feldhaus, Colby Claussen
 Greeters/Off./Bulletins: B. & J. Dold Family
 Rosary: D. & MK. Schlim
 Music: Pat Koepsell & Carrie Mentele

Mass Intentions for April 26- May 2

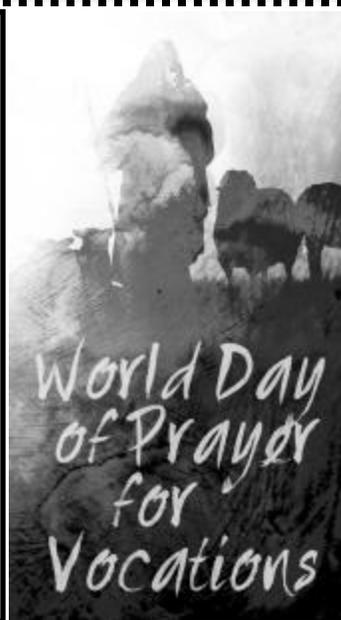
Mon. 4/26 No Mass
 Tues. 4/27 5:30pm H dFrancis & Margaret Schnell
 Wed. 4/28 10am HNH For Residents
 Thurs. 4/29 8am H dConnie Hodges
 10am E dDan Dawson
 Fri. 4/30 10am WW For Residents
 Sat. 5/1 5pm R dIrene Casanova
 Sun. 5/2 8:30am E For Parishioners
 10:30am H dGreg Dornbush

Weekend Support for
 April 17 & 18

5:00pm Ramona
 Reg: N/A
 Loose: N/A
 Total: N/A

8:30am Epiphany
 Reg: \$440
 Loose: \$59
 Total: \$499

10:30am Howard
 Reg: \$1,960
 Loose: \$173
 Total: \$2,133



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -
 RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Confidence in Princes

Have you ever confided your problems to a friend, only to get the answer, "have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it?"

Like all good advice, it can really irritate the recipient at first. Here I am, vulnerable and wounded, unloading my problems, and this joker tries to load them right back up and ship them off to Someone with a higher pay grade. But again, like all good and irritating advice, it rings true if you sit and think about it.

Sure, venting is helpful. We all need that friend or family member who can listen to our problems. But if we ever start to think that person can solve them, it's a good sign that we're losing perspective.

Are you looking to the world for an answer? Are you looking in the mirror, expecting to find a solution to your problems? Are you expecting happiness, peace, contentment or justice to come from any place other than God?

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes," the Psalms tell us. Well, I've never put much confidence in princes. But when it comes to problems, I often find myself telling God to take a step back — "I've got this."

It's tough to pray about any problem as much as you talk about it. We want so badly to tackle the issue ourselves. But I'll let you in on a secret: it doesn't matter what the question is, we don't have the answer. Take it to the One who does. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



GOOD THE SHEEP LEAVES THE FATHER THIS FOLD TAKE IT UP TAKES IT	LAYS DOWN HIRED SCATTERS OTHER SHEEP I MUST AGAIN FROM ME	HIS LIFE A WOLF I KNOW BELONG IN ORDER NO ONE POWER
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A WOLF COMING

L T H I S F O L D E P S
 Y A D E H J R E W O P C
 L K W N I S E V A E L A
 I E O O S T A K E S I T
 P I N O L L E H C A J T
 E T K N I F S G H G F E
 E U I A F R R O O A G R
 H P N R E D R O N I N S
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