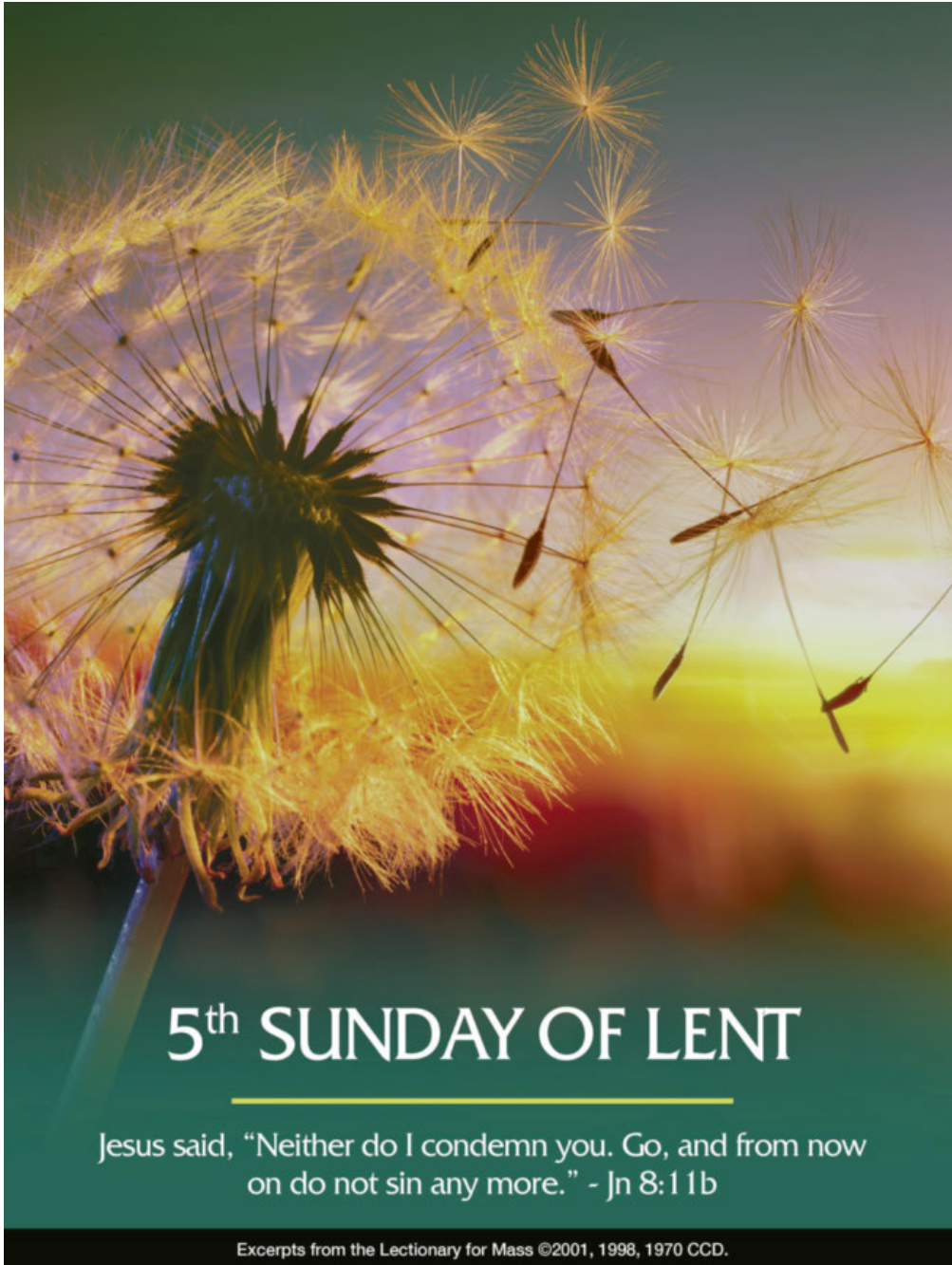




St. Benedict Parish



5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." - Jn 8:11b

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

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 3, 2022**

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Donald Hertges, Pastor
Nick Francois, Deacon
Steve Haluska, Principal
Bonnie Breja, Business Manager,
Development Director
Tyler Wheeler, Pastoral Associate
Karie Valkosky, Parish Secretary,
Director of Religious Education

CONTACT US

PHONE: 563-382-9631
Email: stbenedict@stbenedictcc.com
PARISH WEBSITE: stbenedictcc.com
CEMETERY: cp.stbenedictcc.com/
FACEBOOK PAGE:
facebook.com/StBenedictCCDecorah

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

563-382-4668
WEBSITE: www.st-ben.pvt.k12.ia.us

BULLETIN INFORMATION

Deadline: Wednesdays, 8:00am
Email to: k.valkosky@dbqarch.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Counseling: 563-382-1231
Immigration: 319-364-7121

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Mass: 5:30pm
Sunday Masses:
7:30am, 10:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday: 5:30pm, Church
Wednesday & Thursday: 7:00am, Church
Fridays through the school year: 9:00am, St. Ben's School

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:30-5:00pm, Confessional
Sunday: 9:00-9:30am, Confessional
Other times, by appointment

PARISH COMMUNICATION

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to the parish or are moving, please call the Parish Office, 563-382-9631

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE

For all preparation and to make arrangements, call the office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A Family of Faith: Life in Christ, September–May

CONFIRMATION

Grades 9-11, varying Wednesdays, 7:00pm, Classroom

RCIA

For inquiry into the Catholic Faith, please call the office.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Daughters-Joan Leuenberger
Knights of Columbus-Tom Hartman
ACCW-Julie Vulk

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Creighton Model- Christina Teslow: ctimp.fcpi@gmail.com
319-290-8599

FINANCIAL REPORT

Make your donation **online** from anywhere at any time.
<https://www.stbenedictcc.com/donate>

BUDGET FOR MARCH.....	\$48,945
Received March 1-12.....	\$17,278
Received March 13-26.....	31,238
Received March 27-31.....	\$4,890
Over in March.....	\$4, 461
YEAR TO DATE BUDGET.....	\$522,711
YEAR TO DATE RECEIVED.....	\$527,123
YEAR TO DATE OVER.....	\$4,412

In today's second reading, St. Paul says,
"For his sake I have forfeited everything;
I have accounted all else rubbish
so that Christ may be my wealth."

Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER HERTGES

Can you believe that two weeks from now is Easter Sunday? I can't either! As the lyrics from the March 1977 Steve Miller Band hit song said, "Time keeps on slipping into the future."

In any case, I have some fabulous and hopeful news from the latter part of the month of March that is another huge step forward in the hopeful pursuit of normalcy. I was going to share with all of you in last week's "spiel," but ran out of space, which is one of the main reasons why I generally conclude my weekly bulletin column with the upbeat and anticipatory phrase *more to come!*

I was summoned to the Winneshiek Medical Center a couple of weeks ago to visit a couple of parishioners who were patients at aforementioned healthcare facility. Relatives of the patients made the request for my visit, which has been the mode of operating since March of 2020. Upon completion of my visit, I asked the medical personnel at the nurse's station if Deacon Nick and I could once again perform weekly visits to the Roman Catholic patients at the hospital as we did prior to March of 2020. The staff present said that was fine and now permissible by current hospital guidelines (praised be Jesus Christ).

A reminder is in order here that prior to the pandemic Deacon Nick typically visited the Winneshiek Medical Center Monday evenings prior to Benediction at church and I tried to visit either on Wednesday or Thursday, depending upon how demanding my week was. Sometimes Fridays would serve as hospital visit day as I could conveniently stop by after school Mass. Of course Deacon Nick and I will abide by whatever visitor protocols the hospital has in place and I always have my anointing kit with me.

My practice is to leave a business card behind with the patient and hospital staff as a record that the individual indeed received the sacrament of the sick and/or the Apostolic Pardon where appropriate and requested. In this manner hospital staff can enter this into the Catholic person's medical chart as well. The business cards also serve as a low-tech and effective means to assure family members and friends that their loved one was indeed visited by clergy who also represent the Church. Honestly speaking, I have utilized business cards in all my prior parish assignments in fourteen years of priesthood and I always feel *extra-professional* whenever I have an occasion to share them with people!

Visiting the sick is one of the corporal works of mercy and I am so *grateful* to once again have freedom of movement so to speak in being able to visit every week without having to place an additional burden upon patients and their loved ones to contact the parish office to specifically request this. Yet having stated all that, if you or someone you know is hospitalized before or after the weekly visit, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to stop by and/or confer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. That's all for now, have a great week! **MORE TO COME!**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

9:00am School Mass, School: Maly Family

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

4:30pm Patriotic Rosary, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church: Dennis Frana
Scrip is for sale in the GS after all Masses this weekend

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 | FAMILY WEEKEND

7:30am Mass, Church: Pete & Elenora Franzen
8:30am Coffee and Rolls, PH, Served by StBenYouth
10:00am Mass, Church: The People
11:00am Coffee and Rolls, PH, Served by StBenYouth
6:00pm StBenYouth, CR

MONDAY, APRIL 4

7:00am-8:00pm Adoration, Church
6:30pm Mass, Mediacom Channel 15
8:00pm Benediction, Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

6:30am Undaunted, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church: Tobias Enbgelhardt
Following 5:30pm Mass Stations of the Cross, Church

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

7:00am Mass, Church: James, Mary, Noel & Joe Henry
7:30am Coffee after Mass, GS

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

7:00am Mass, Church: John Schwebel

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

9:00am School Mass, School: Jerry Stortz

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

5:30pm Mass, Church: Serena & Kathleen Timp and Elberta Huinker

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 | PALM SUNDAY

7:30am Mass, Church: Jonathan Lukes and Jennifer Lukes Murphy
10:00am Mass, Church: The People
6:00pm StBenYouth, CR

CDA CORNER

We are super excited! Mark your calendars now for our CDA Salad luncheon, which is back on April 21st! Please come and bring some friends! It is an awesome lunch! We look forward to seeing you there! For any information about it please contact Mary Jane.

CDA's next meeting will be on April 10th at 11:15am in the Classroom. All parish women are encouraged to come, listen, share ideas, and possibly join our group! We are getting to the good stuff; we will be voting on projects for 2022. Please come to share your ideas and vote!

We are currently looking for quilters to help sew our Winneshiek community comfort quilts. We have fabric and we have ideas, now we need more quilters! We'd also like to make more men's quilts. Those we've made have immediately been placed, which is awesome! To date, we have donated 189 quilts to Winneshiek families going through a family crisis. Thank you to all who have donated fabric to our cause. It is truly appreciated! Every scrap of fabric is used, down to scraps donated to make pet beds!

Please feel free to contact any of the officers for rides, ideas, thoughts, projects, or prayers!

Joan Leuenberger: 563-382-0014, Diane Sadler: 563-382-2114
Peggy Lensing:563-379-0924, Mary Jane Michels:563-382-9522
Trish Hartman:563-380-2942



DIVINE MERCY

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, April 15th, and ends on Saturday, April 23rd. Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be part our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 24th.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Cru Lance Jewell, the son of Josey and Micole Jewell, and

Nash Daniel Wedemeier, the son of Tyler & Samantha Wedemeier.

Cru and Nash were baptized on April 3, 2022. We welcome you to God's family!!!

AROUND OUR AREA

8TH GRADE FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

All Vets Club, April 3rd, 8:00am-noon. Free will donation.

NORTHERN LIGHTS SPRING CONCERT

Sunday, April 10th, 3:00pm at Decorah Lutheran Church.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, April 28th, 12:30-5:30pm, Stone Ridge Church. Text LIFESERVE to 999-777 or call 800.287.4903

DRIVE THRU CHICKEN DINNER

South Winn Country Club, Sunday, May 1st, 11:00am-1:00pm.

FAMILY WEEKEND

Celebrate Mass together this weekend and then come down to the Parish Hall for coffee and rolls, served this month by our StBenYouth!!!

OUR LADY OF THE MISSISSIPPI ABBEY
COME AND SEE: MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND
April 8-10th, 2022

- Join the community for prayer and The Eucharist.
 - Listen to sisters speak about our way of life and how God led them to the Abbey.
- Meet other women exploring God's call in their lives.
- Opportunities to ask questions, visit one-on-one with a sister, and enjoy the beauty of nature around us.

OPEN TO SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN AGES 18-39
vocations@olmabbey.org or 563.382.2595 ext.114

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED

Lawrence Whittle

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

DECORAH FOOD PANTRY

The Decorah Community Food Pantry is now under the leadership of our new director, Norah Hummel. She has identified certain items that are in short supply and so once again we're relying on the generosity of congregation members. The following items can either be brought directly to the Pantry all day until 3:00pm or if there is one, the box at church: canned pork and beans, ketchup, small bottles of laundry detergent or paper towels. For more information about the pantry or to volunteer or donate, consult decorahpantry.org

ST. BENEDICT CEMETERY

If you have any decorations on your loved one's graves, please have picked up by April 15th. With the winds this winter and early spring, decorations have blown all over the cemetery. If not picked up by April 15th, items will be put in the garbage. Thank you for all you do to keep our cemetery looking beautiful!

PRO-LIFE MEETING

Please join us for our NEIA Pro-Life meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, at 10:15am in the Parish Hall.

NEW FAMILY

David, Nicole and Gunnar Mathis
We welcome you to our Parish Family!!!

AASE HAUGEN'S ENHANCE THE SPA EXPERIENCE

With help from our community, Aase plans to add a new lift with a built-in scale, new bath chairs to raise and lower into the tubs, new bariatric shower chairs, towel warmers, wheelchair-friendly robes, personal hygiene compartments for each resident, no slip seating pads and music options for easy listening and relaxation in our three spas.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We appreciate any help you can give, and we have much gratitude for your gifts which help those entrusted to our care. Gifts may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones as well.

Aase Haugen Foundation
4 Ohio St. Decorah, IA 52101

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbor's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.
Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.
Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge,
and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace
of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace.

Amen.

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