



St. Benedict Parish



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Peace I leave with you.”
- Jn 14:27a

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

**SUNDAY,
MAY 22, 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

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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

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER HERTGES



I begin this week’s “spiel” with a huge THANK-YOU to all who tended to my dual medical needs last week, in addition to those who offered to drop off groceries. Finally, *thank-you for all your prayers* as I took last week off to quarantine from Covid and convalesce from shingles.

As I mentioned in my communique last Saturday, middle age and the last two years caught up with me, as did the Chicken Pox and Coronaviruses! However, I still consider myself extremely fortunate as these have been my only two noticeable maladies since the fall of 2019. Considering the extra work, worry and all-around additional stresses of the past two years, I am not going to complain too much or loudly. Life in general, and health in particular, are two precious, fragile gifts that can be lost and/or taken away very quickly, pandemic or not. I know I have stated this in homilies and written this statement quite often in bulletin articles, but last week I too received a reminder of how true this is.

On a much different and more positive note, *this Thursday*, May 26th (the Feast of St. Philip Neri, Priest) officially, liturgically, and chronologically marks my fifteenth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ! I am already eagerly looking forward to celebrating my anniversary with you on the weekend of June 4th and 5th.

I have also reached out to the twelve parishes that comprise my four prior assignments and communicated the dates with them as well. It is always a wonderful experience to be reunited with people from previous assignments; though names have been and continue to be a major challenge of mine which has not become easier over the years, considering all the experiences I have had in a relatively short span of time. May God’s will be done in all times, things and places!

I wish to close this week’s bulletin column by sharing a prayer that has been very powerful and meaningful to me since receiving it in May of 2003 from some of the belongings of Fr. Giles Brom. This fellow Ossianite had been a Christian Brother for some years before being ordained to the priesthood for Peoria, Illinois in December 1996, prior to his untimely death in August of 2002; so has a special connection to me and my hometown. What is more, this particular prayer ties in priesthood, and devotion to the Blessed Mother very well, in conjunction with the month of May and my anniversary. The prayer is even more profound and moving now after fifteen years and will continue to be so as long as God permits me to minister to His people this side of Heaven. Enjoy! Have a great week!

Continued on page 4...

WEDDING

Congratulations to Brynne Valkosky and Cade Naughton, married in our parish on May 21, 2022. May God bless you today and always!!!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Make your donation **online**
<https://www.stbenedictcc.com/donate>

BUDGET FOR MAY	\$61,180
Received May 1-7.....	\$6,585
Received May 8-14.....	\$9,241
Received May 15-21.....	\$17,262
Needed for May.....	\$28,092
YEAR TO DATE BUDGET.....	\$643,600
YEAR TO DATE RECEIVED.....	\$639,359
YEAR TO DATE SHORT.....	-\$4,241

Today’s reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. “But,” the bishops’ pastoral on stewardship reminds us, “that ‘life to come’ is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now.”

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 20

9:00am Mass, School: Jim Carolan and Mary Ann Carolan Marsters

SATURDAY, MAY 21

2:00pm Valkosky/Naughton Wedding
5:30pm Mass, Church: Floyd Herold

SUNDAY, MAY 22 | GRADUATION DAY

7:30am Mass, Church: Merlin Imoehl and The People
10:00am Mass, Church: Wendy Dotzenrod-Ney

MONDAY, MAY 23

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

TUESDAY, MAY 24

4:00pm Widow's Group, PH
5:30pm Mass, Church: Robert Schwebel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

9:00am Mass, School: Jim Dougherty

THURSDAY, MAY 26

7:00am Mass, Church: Barb Sutton

FRIDAY, MAY 27

7:00am Mass, Church: Richard Sensor

SATURDAY, MAY 28

5:30pm Mass, Church: Florence Gehling

SUNDAY, MAY 29

7:30am Mass, Church: The People
10:00am Mass, Church: James, Mary, Noel & Joe Henry

FINAL WEEKEND OF SCRIP SALES

This will be the final weekend Scrip will be sold at the parish until school resumes in the fall. We would love to sell out!!!
Find us in the Gathering Space.

DEAR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST. BEN'S

On behalf of all of us at St. Benedict School, a big *Thank You!* for your participation in this year's "Auction of Blessings". First, I would like to thank all members of the committee who have dedicated so much time, effort and creativity to make this event so special. Thank you also to all who have given so selflessly to make this event happen. Without you and your generous donations, this auction would not have taken place. Once again, to the committee and donors: May God bless you and thank you from all who are a part of St. Benedict School!

Please know that a school such as St. Benedict is highly dependent on donations in order to provide our students the type of educational experience of which we can all be proud. Our school has a well-known tradition of producing well educated, faith-centered students who become positive forces in our world and we certainly want to keep that tradition alive! Events like this help make that happen. The funding from our auction allows us to update technology and curriculum. It ensures that our building operates well and allows us to purchase necessary equipment. These are challenges we face each and every year. In order to ensure these needs are met, fundraising is a must.

The continued support from not only the Catholic community, but the entire Decorah community, is much appreciated. Without your support, we would not be able to provide the excellent opportunities we currently offer. Thank you all for all you do!

Think of all the purchases and donations from this event as much-appreciated gifts that will continue to provide our students, staff and families with a great facility where high quality education instilled with Catholic values is delivered. Keep in mind, too, the great memories of St. Benedict School that will last a lifetime in the minds of our students.

Again, on behalf of the entire staff of St. Benedict School, *Thank You for being a part of this wonderful event. Your participation is most deeply appreciated. Thank you for being a supporter of Catholic education in our beautiful community!* God bless!
Steve Haluska, Principal, St. Benedict School

AREA NEWS

8TH GRADE FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 22nd, 8:00am-noon, All Vets Club

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

May 26th, 12:30-5:30, Stone Ridge Church. 800.287.4903

ST. WENCESLAUS CHURCH GARAGE SALE

June 4th. 7:00am-1:00pm. St. Teresa School gym in Spillville.

FATHER HERTGES' ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Potluck after the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday, June 4th. Coffee & Rolls after the 7:30am and 10:00am Masses on Sunday, June 5th.

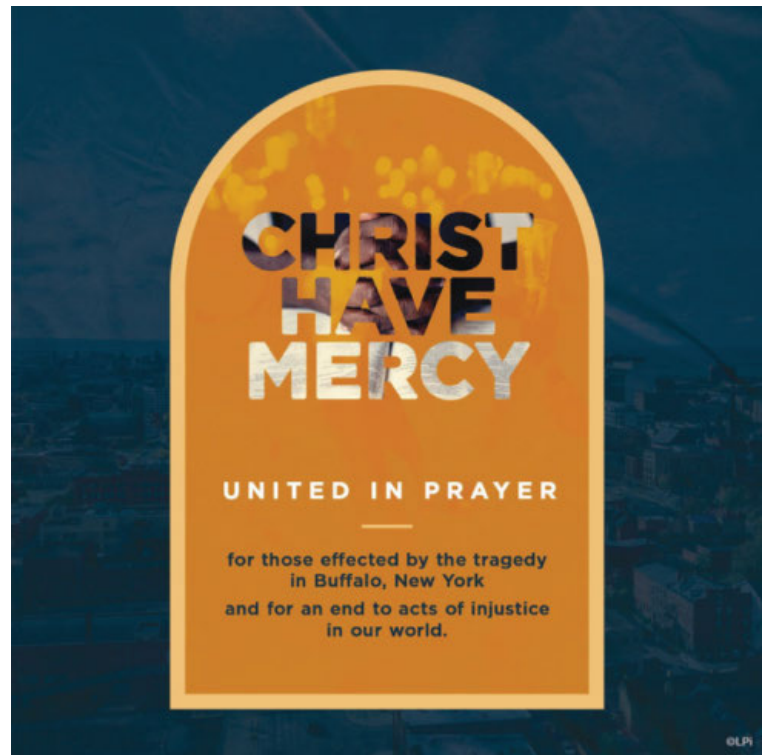
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are planning on attending Fr. Hertges' celebration potluck on Saturday, June 5th and would like to help in the kitchen, please contact Jeanne Casterton at 563-380-5194 by June 3rd. Your help will be appreciated!!!

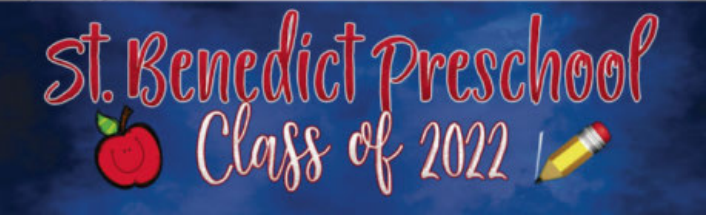
FATHER HERTGES CONTINUED

Prayer of A Priest to Our Lady

Dear Mother Mary, Mother of the High Priest, Jesus Christ, be the Mother of this lowly priest, too! Through sacred anointing I am Another Christ, but through my faults I am only another sinner. But because you are my Mother, do not permit me to wear my priesthood in dread fear, but renew me with eager hope, unbounded confidence and holy joy. Guard me, body and soul mind and heart. Help me in a priest's own problems; in Nazareth's work, in Gethsemane's loneliness, or in Calvary's pain. Help me to be kind to the poor, the persistent, the unreasonable, because in God's eyes I am all these things myself. Light in the sanctuary of my soul the strong candles of manly piety, so that I may pray not with mere formality, but with the fervor of a vibrant faith. In the ministry turn my good will into good works. Give me a zeal that no routine can rust, a humility that no success can shatter, patience in the splinters of petty troubles, and resignation with the big crosses burden me. Mary, my Mother, you are the Health of the Sick: help me to be their friend and consoler, you are the Refuge of Sinners: let my arms be outstretched, wide as the Crucified's, to receive the repentant, because I too have needed and have known God's mercy. You are the Tower of Ivory: within your Immaculate fortress I place my priestly purity. Let my life be spotless as a gleaming altar cloth, so that each day I may without guilt take into my hands, the Child you so often held in your arms. Whisper to me that "the Mass is not just part of the day, but the heart of the day." O Mother Mary, Mediatrix of all graces, reach out some special grace this day, to each priest all over the world—to the young, the tempted, the old, the discouraged, the dying, and the poor straying shepherds who have deserted their flock. Help them and help me, O Mother of Perpetual help, and in turn I pledge you my perpetual devotion. To you I consecrate all that I have and all that I am. On the steep path of the priesthood, I pray you walk with me every step of the way. As the evening comes, hold your lamp; and at the last, lift the latch of the gate, and bring me into Heaven, a priest forever— where "forever" is eternity in the joyful company of Jesus, my Savior, and You, my Sweet Mother Mary.



ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL



EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Danika Reiser, Stella Pole, Ariana Albert & Olivia Huinker
Ryan Northup, Patrick Gallagher, Garrett See & Thomas Sexton



TOTUS TUUS HELP NEEDED

COOK A MEAL?

We need 5 volunteers to cook a lunch for the 4 Totus Tuus missionaries who will be visiting us this summer, June 20-24th. The meal can be prepared at home and then either brought to the church or picked up. Contact Tyler Wheeler (dbq049s@dbqarch.org) or the parish office if interested or have any questions.

ARCHDIOCESEONE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

The financial beneficiaries of ArchdioceseOne were identified by Archbishop Jackels as the areas of greatest need in our Archdiocese. They were identified after many hours spent consulting clergy and lay church leaders, councils, and other groups across the Archdiocese over the course of several years. Those beneficiaries include:

- Priest Retirement (\$15 million goal)
- Seminary Education (\$15 million goal)
- Repairs and Upgrades to the Cathedral of St. Raphael (\$11 million goal)
- Immigration Legal Services through Catholic Charities (\$7 million goal)

Please visit our website to learn more about these financial beneficiaries by visiting this link, <https://www.archdioceseone.org/beneficiaries>, or by scanning this QR code with your QR enabled mobile device.



God, come to our assistance. Lord, make haste to help us. Amen.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAPHAEL REPAIRS AND UPGRADES

The Cathedral of St. Raphael is the mother church for the entire Archdiocese of Dubuque, where celebrations for the whole Archdiocese are held. The Cathedral of St. Raphael is also a parish church, and its parishioners will certainly do their part to make much-needed repairs. Some initial work has been done to shore up the foundation, but we need to protect the worship and gathering spaces from further damage. Learn more: www.archdioceseone.org/cathedral-church-campus-repairs

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

The mission of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque is to help the most vulnerable, which includes immigrants and refugees. Immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to seek legal options to determine whether they qualify for a pathway to legal status. Learn more: www.archdioceseone.org/immigration-legal-services

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