



St. Clare, Clarinda



Sacred Heart, Bedford



St. Joseph, Villisca

Catholic Parishes

Rev. Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp., Pastor

ST. CLARE, CLARINDA

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Mass Times:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: First

Wednesday of the Month: 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:00-3:40 p.m. or
by appointment

Religious Education: Emily Akers/
Mark B.

Office Hours: 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. M-F
(If stopping best to call first)

SACRED HEART, BEDFORD

707 Main Street, Bedford, IA 50833

Mass Time: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation:

1st Saturdays after Mass or
by appointment

Religious Education: James Rogers/
Theresa Rowan

Bookkeeper: Glenda Stockwell

ST. JOSEPH, VILLISCA

131 W High Street, Villisca, IA 50864

Email: stclareclarinda@mchsi.com

Mass Time: Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation:

1st Sundays after Mass or
by appointment

Bookkeeper: Gary Poen



SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

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

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April 4th/5th, 2020– Palm Sunday Readings:

Mt 21:1-11

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]

Phil 2:6-11

Mt 26:14–27:66 or 27:11-54

The Church, the Body of Christ (C748-69):

We do not come before the Blessed Trinity as solitary human beings. Along with our in-born need to know and love God, we have a need to know and love other people and to be known and loved by them. Because we are made in the image and likeness of God, who is “Community,” we need community.

Jesus came to draw us into the “Community-love” of the Trinity. He lived, died, and rose, to bring all people into one family (John 10:16-18). At the Last Supper, Jesus asked us to love one another as he loves us (John 15:12). He prayed that we would be one, as He and the Father are one (John 17:20-21).

He formed the community of believers into the sign of his continuing presence on earth. He said, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). When Paul was persecuting Christians, Christ asked him, “Why are you persecuting me?” This helped Paul to understand the unity between Christ and the believers. He later wrote to them, “You are Christ’s Body” (1 Corinthians 12:27), and explained that Christ “is the Head of the Body, the Church” (Colossians 1:18).

Paul uses the terms Body of Christ and the church interchangeably. The word, church, is a translation of the Greek word, *ekklesia*, an assembly of people called forth, “the People of God.” Christ calls forth believers to bring Him to the world, especially, by their love and community: “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). It is the task of the Church, then, to perpetuate the love of Christ on earth and to mirror the love of the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and, the Holy Spirit, who, together, give us a perfect example of unity in diversity or multiplicity, and, not unity in uniformity.

The Imperfect Church: Christ’s Beloved Church (C 770-80):

Since the Church is made up of human beings who are not perfect, it is to be expected that the Church will be less than perfect. Some people are scandalized by failures in the Church and say that Christ never intended a Church with its leaders, rituals, laws, and potentials for scandal and sin.

But, the first Christians believed that Jesus established a Church: “You are Peter, and, upon this rock I will build my Church” (Matthew 16:18). They knew that He designated leaders to make decisions ratified by God: “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and, whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 18:18). They believed that Christ gave the Church ritual observances: “This is my Body”, ... “do this, in memory of me” (Luke 22:19). They accepted from Jesus strict rules of conduct (Matthew 5:21-22) and guidelines for marriage (Mark 10:11). They realized that Jesus expected his followers to have standards for membership in the Church, and, that those who violated them were to be excluded: “If he refuses to listen, even, to the church, then, treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector” (Matthew 18:17).

Jesus knew that those who would represent him were subject to failure. Peter denied him three times, but, Jesus, after his Resurrection, forgave and gave Peter a three-fold commission to care for his sheep (John 21:15-18). The apostles ran away when Jesus was arrested, and, yet, he appeared to them after his Resurrection, and, sent them to preach the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:16-20). Jesus patiently helped the unbelieving Thomas to put faith in Him (John 20:24-29).

The early Church had all the problems found in our Christian churches today. There were liars and hypocrites (Acts 5:1-11). There were complaints of unfairness (Acts 6:1). There were those who used religion for personal gains (Acts 8:9-24). There were disagreements about doctrine (Acts 15). There were conflicts among Church leaders (Acts 15:36-41). There were sermons that failed to make an impact upon the preacher’s audience (Acts 17:22-34), and, sermons so long that they put people to sleep (Acts 20:7-12). There were questions about pastors’ salaries, disorder at worship ceremonies, lust and scandal, and neglect of the poor (1 Corinthians 5-11). There were all the problems which arise when people try to follow Jesus and fall short of the mark because of their human weaknesses and sins.

Because the Church is the Body of Christ, it has never lacked holiness, goodness and grace, because Jesus is holy and perfect. If there were villains in the Early Church, there were also heroes (Acts 7). If there was sin, there was holiness (Acts 2:42-47). If there was selfishness, there was generosity (Acts 4:32-37). If there were laws and leaders, it was because no society can exist without them (Acts 4:1-22).

In the Church, there have always been good and bad people, good and bad times. The history of the Church has been the history of Christ living in us, inviting us to holistically follow him faithfully, and, calling us back when we fail.

Sources:

Avery Dulles. *Models of the Church* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1987)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994) 1997

Richard P. McBrien. *Responses to 101 Questions on the Church* (1996)

-----, *Catholicism* (1994)

Donald Senior (General Editor), *The Catholic Bible: Personal Study Edition*, 2011.

Oscar Lukefahr, C.M. “We Believe ...”: *A Survey of the Catholic Faith (Revised and cross-Referenced to the Catechism of the Catholic Church)*, 1995

Thank You to everyone who turned in their pledge cards for the Annual Diocesan Appeal thus far. Our parish goal is 100% participation so please prayerfully consider the amount you can contribute to reach our goal. Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the appeal. A one time gift or a pledge to pay within a certain number of months can be made using the pledge card you may have received or visit www.dmdiocese.org/giving/annual-diocesan-appeal.



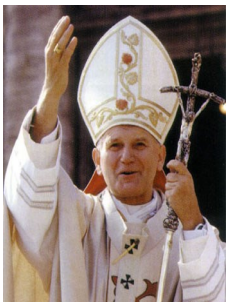
DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

As of March 27th, St. Clare has had 7 donors respond with pledges and gifts of \$5,250 to bring the remaining balance to \$11,264 from the initial \$16,514 that we have been assessed. Thank you!

"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." Mother Teresa

Lets Learn about the Saints:

St. Giles—was an advisor to Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne, King of the Franks. He advised King Charles to confess a sin, which gave the king great peace. Giles then returned to a life of prayer. He died in the year 712 and is called upon to pray for us against crippling diseases. Feast Day is September 1st.



St. John Paul the Great—was born Karol Wojtyla in Poland on May 18, 1920. He was elected Pope John Paul II of the Roman Catholic Church in 1978. He emphasized the Church's traditional teachings, especially the unconditional right to life. A key goal of John Paul II's papacy put the Catholic Church at the heart of a new religious alliance joining Jews, Muslims and Christians to fight the evils of our time.

On May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, John Paul II suffered an assassination attempt. He credits the Blessed Virgin with deflecting the bullet away from his heart and saving his life. He later visited his assassin in prison and forgave him.

Pope John Paul II traveled the world, bringing the love of God to 129 countries. He canonized 483 people and died on April 2, 2005, the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, which emphasizes the love and mercy that Jesus has for all of us. He was canonized as Saint John Paul II on April 27, 2014. His feast day is October 22nd. Lovingly called "John Paul the Great" for all he did for the Lord and His Church, he is the patron saint of labor.

BIRTHDAYS

3-23 Lilly Anderson

4-9 Patrick Rankin

4-9 Mollie Brown

4-10 Kyle Rowan

4-11 Maddie Hartley



Mass Intentions @ St. Joseph, Villisca:

April 2: Mark & Helen Langenfeld from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 5: Jim & MaryLou Schimeroski and Bob & Linda Schiltz from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 9: Jim & MaryLou Schimeroski and Mark & Helen Langenfeld from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

Mass Intentions @ St. Clare, Clarinda:

March 31: Alfred & Leonetta Kenkel from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 1: Silverius & Mariann Muenchrath and Andy & Mildred Bruck from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 3: Leo & Marie Dresen and Mary Feser from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 4: Joe & Irene Leuschen from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 5: Betty Langenfeld and Andy & Mildred Bruck from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 7: Leo & Marie Dresen & Ambrose Muenchrath from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 8: Mary Feser & Dorothy Muenchrath from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

April 10: Joe and Irene Leuschen and Betty Langenfeld from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

Mass Intentions @ Sacred Heart, Bedford:

April 4: Joe & Mary Reischl and Vince Stinn from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling



Let us Pray for the Sick of our Parishes:

Sandy Liner, Nancy Fahey, Dollie Nowakowski, Gustavo Rodriguez, James Dowling, Sally Davison, Gene Fahey, Louvada McAlpin, Kathy Holmes, Lou Ludington, Wade Schuetz, Midge Stanley, Connie Gage, Fr. Paul Koch, Father Tom Coenen, Ivan & Barbara Friend, Kelly Tobin, Dr. Tonia Baldwin, Sue Schaub, Gerald Long, Yan & Russell Shum, Alice Varley, Beth Kline, Jerry and Jean Schweitzer, Pat Kasha, Keith Holderfield, & Renee Rogers.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is “why me?” as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge. Going through life with a “why me” attitude only finds us wallowing in the mire of self-pity and never seizing opportunities or graces. We walk in solidarity with every human being in the experience of suffering. Believing that the goal of life is the elimination or avoidance of suffering is simply an illusion that keeps us entrenched in a collective myth. This myth distorts us and limits us.

There are living witnesses among us showing how courage and determination can overcome any degree of hardship, pain, loss, or tragedy. Folks finding the normalcy of their lives suddenly torn asunder are faced with options: opportunity or despair, stay or leave. Jesus stands before us as the prime example of endurance and perseverance. He is the One who showed humility through both the triumphs of life (by learning to be humble) and the tragedies and injustices (by learning how to be obedient). To secular ears, this may be perceived as nonsense. But to those with the eyes of faith, they are pearls of great price.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life’s successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony. While we may want our cup of suffering to be taken away, it simply cannot be. Somehow and somewhere in the seemingly opposing experiences life can deal us, God is present with His reassuring, compassionate, empowering, and persevering love. To be true to who we are and who God is, we must take up the cross of suffering, even when it’s the hardest and most apparently senseless thing to do.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible. Hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation, rejection, prejudice, homelessness, disrespect for life, and a whole host of other sins all result in suffering that is within our control. Then, when we face the uncontrollable kind of suffering or find ourselves the victim of injustice, what do we do? ©LPi


Here is a suggested prayer of spiritual Communion:

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen.



Anne Marie, from the diocesan office, continues to gather together wonderful resources to aid us spiritually through this time. Bishop Joensen’s pastoral messages and videos, prayer resources, and information on streaming Mass options and more are available to you here: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/resources/worship/coronavirus>

*“It is a favorable time to heal wounds,
a time to offer everyone the way of
Forgiveness and Reconciliation.”
- Pope Francis*



Corporal Works of Mercy

- To Feed the Hungry
- To Give Drink to the Thirsty
- To Clothe the Naked
- To Shelter the Homeless
- To Care for the Sick
- To Visit the Imprisoned
- To Bury the Dead

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**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- To Convert Sinners
- To Instruct the Ignorant
- To Advise the Doubtful
- To Comfort the Sorrowful
- To Bear Wrongs Patiently
- To Forgive Injuries
- To Pray for the Living and Dead

**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,**  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be  
patient and kind.  
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to  
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.  
Amen.



| Your Gifts for God's Work | March 28th/29th, 2020 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| The Weeks Offering        | \$340.00              |
| Weekly Goal               | \$1,562.50            |
| Over/(Below)              | (\$1,222.50)          |
| Monthly Goal              | \$6,250.00            |
| Total for Month of March  | \$1,843.00            |

**PLANNED GIVING: WILLS, BEQUESTS, BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS, RETIREMENT PLANS, AND LIFE INSURANCE:**  
**TO: ST. CLARE, CLARINDA, SACRED HEART, BEDFORD, AND, ST. JOSEPH, VILLISCA:**

*The legacy we leave lies in the acts of charity, support and moments of kindness we provide to people we touch along the way. As Catholics, we are called to give in any way we can.*

The mission of the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa is to promote a legacy of giving and support within the parishes, schools, and Catholic organizations within the Diocese of Des Moines. Planned Giving through wills and estate bequests along with beneficiary designations of IRA, retirement plans, and life insurance plans are avenues that allow an individual to share their gifts with their parish. The Catholic Foundation can also facilitate gifts of real estate, stock, and gifts of grain to your parish, school, or Catholic organization/ministry that you feel a connection to and want to support.

The Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa is here to support your wishes and look forward to having the opportunity to work with you. Please contact, Brooke Pulliam at 515-237-5080 or [bpulliam@catholicfoundationiowa.org](mailto:bpulliam@catholicfoundationiowa.org) to answer any question or set up an appointment today. You may also contact your parish office to get more information.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Our sincere condolences and prayers:  
—To Cindy Morgan and her family for the recent loss of her mother, Joan Flynn, age 88.  
—To Judy Haas and her family for the recent loss of her niece, Suzanne Pratt.  
—To Judy Casey and her family for the recent loss of her mother, Joyce Skahill, age 93.  
—To Fred Graf and his family for the recent loss of his father, Edwin Graf, age 98.



### A Prayer for the Sick

God our Father  
we come to You in our need  
to ask Your protection against the coronavirus  
that has claimed lives  
and has affected many.

We pray for Your grace  
for the people tasked with studying the nature  
and cause  
of this virus and its disease  
and of stemming the tide of its transmission.  
Guide the hands and minds of medical experts  
that they may minister to the sick  
with competence and compassion  
and of those governments and private agencies  
that must find a cure and solution to this  
epidemic.

We pray for those afflicted.  
May they be restored to health soon.

Grant us the grace  
to work for the good of all  
and to help those in need.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your  
Son who lives and reigns with You, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

### A CALL FOR MASS INTENTIONS AND INFORMATION ABOUT IT:

Dear Parishioners, I have observed, since my arrival, that we always have very few Mass Intentions and Stipends (offerings) in all our three parishes. Masses can be booked for various reasons and occasions, such as, anniversaries, (such as, death, weddings, graduations, etc.), birthdays, funerals, memorials, graduations, travel mercies, success in exams and projects, thanksgivings, job interviews, opportunities, and promotions, for the sick (healing, recovery, etc.), fruits of the womb, marriages, Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, vocations, seminarians, the Religious, Priests, Bishops, the Pope, families, Local, State, and Federal Governments and leaders, peace, reconciliation, name-feasts/Patron Saints, for our Parishes/Churches, unity, God's blessings and protection, etc. For Mass Stipends, the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines recommends a minimum donation of \$5 for an intention. However, one can donate more than \$5 for an intention in a Mass. You can book your Masses through: 1) the Parish offices 2) Parish E-mails 3) by surface mail addresses of our Parishes 4) Phone, via our respective Parish phones 5) by dropping them into the offertory collection baskets in sealed envelopes at Masses. You may indicate the particular days you may like to have the Masses said or celebrated in the Church. If the donor of the Mass Intention/s will be physically present at the chosen day, that will be wonderful. If not, the Mass Intention can still be celebrated. The Intentions will be published in our Parish Bulletin, indicating the names of the donor and the beneficiaries. There are many openings in our Mass Intention Books now. All the Mass Stipends belong to the Parishes where they are donated and where the Masses will be celebrated. Please, let us always pray for one another and for any other intentions to our good, gracious, listening, caring, and benevolent Father all year round. May His peace, love and blessings be with us, both now

a n d f o r a l l e t e r n i t y . A m e n .  
Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp.