



St. Clare, Clarinda



Sacred Heart, Bedford



St. Joseph, Villisca

Catholic Parishes

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

ST. CLARE, CLARINDA

300 E Lincoln Street, Clarinda, IA 51632

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E-Mail: eponvu@yahoo.com

Bulletin: <http://parishesonline.com/find/st-clare-church-clarinda>

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)

Office Manager: Jackie Schmitt

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



May 16th/17th, 2020—Sixth Sunday of Easter—Cycle A
913

Readings:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]

1 Pt 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21

Understanding the Word

Philip, one of the seven men appointed by the Jerusalem community to attend to the needs of the Hellenistic widows, travels north to Samaria. Though Jews and Samaritans pursued different paths, they both lived in expectation of a messiah. This shared hope explains their openness to Philip's preaching, which is supported by exorcisms and healings. By their baptism, the Samaritans were incorporated into the community. Whether the Spirit was conferred on them when they were baptized or when the apostles laid hands on them is a lesser matter. What is important is the reconciliation in Christ between the Jews and the Samaritans.

The First Letter of Peter tells the Christians that they must respond to the suffering they will endure for their faith in a way that will enhance the spread of the gospel. Peter offers the sufferings of Christ as an example to follow. He places their sufferings within the context of the holiness of Christ, which gives them both strength and courage. He explains how the suffering of Christ was a vicarious sacrifice that effected redemption for all. The reading ends with a traditional formula of Christian faith in the Resurrection, built on the classical contrast between flesh and spirit. Though he died in the flesh, Christ is alive in the Spirit. Following his example, even though they die in the flesh, they can hope to live in the Spirit.

Jesus calls for self-sacrifice, as was his own love. He insists that if the disciples truly love him, they will keep his commandments. Though his departure might leave them feeling abandoned, he reassures them that he will return. The real marvel of this passage is found in the description of mutual indwelling. Jesus is in the Father; Jesus is in the disciples and they are in him; both the Spirit and Jesus will remain in the disciples. This is the manifestation of the love that begins and ends this reading.

Reflecting on the Word

The Easter season keeps offering us pictures of what happens when the power of resurrected life, given by Jesus to his disciples, enters the world. Sometimes it led to a recognition that one group should not be favored over another, whether they were widows or Samaritans. All were to be served; all were to receive the gospel.

When the deacon Philip began to preach Jesus as the Messiah, the people of Samaria listened. They not only heard Philip's message but also saw the power of God's salvation at work as he cast out demons and cured people who were crippled and paralyzed. With the new birth of faith came baptism and a reception of the Holy Spirit, when Peter and John laid hands on them.

The Holy Spirit continues to bring the truth of who God is and the strength to help us live in that truth, fully revealed in Jesus. Because of the Spirit, we dwell with the Father and the Son. Jesus' promises come to fulfillment in us; we are not orphans but beloved sons and Daughters, the divine life of the Trinity flowing in us. In the Eucharist Jesus comes to be with us, and brings the Father, for he is in the Father and we are in him and he is in us.

Resurrection life commits us to living out the command "Always be ready to give the explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). The Spirit brings hope and, as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his encyclical "Saved in Hope" (*Spe Salvi*), "The one who has hope lives differently."

Responding to the Word

We ask the Holy Spirit to be with us always, so we may live more fully in an awareness of the truth that is Jesus Christ, beloved Son, who came to teach us what it means to be children of God. Pray to be more aware of your intimate communion with the Father and the Son.

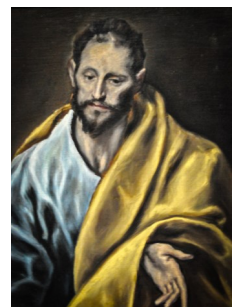
Taken from *Living the Word: Scripture Reflections and Commentaries for Sundays and Holy Days*

Let's Learn about the Saints:

St. Hildegund—was the twelfth-century daughter of a German knight or merchant. After her mother's death, she went with her father on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. For her protection as they traveled through various lands, she dressed like a boy and used the name Joseph. Their journey was successful, but on the way home, her father died. The servant who kept their purse absconded, leaving twelve-year-old Hildegund in Tyre without any money. She continued trying to return to Germany, but many things happened along the way—including her almost being hanged in Verona.

Once back home, Hildegund was still without means to support herself and decided to become a lay "brother" at the Cistercian monastery at Schonau. As Brother Joseph, she began a life of quiet prayer and meditation, dying after a few years in 1188. Only then did anyone discover her secret. Feast day is April 20.

James the Less—His mother was one of the Marys present at the Crucifixion and his father was Alphaeus. The Gospel of Mark refers to James as "the Less," which is sometimes translated into English as "the younger." Some believe that "the less" implies he was a small man, but that is only speculation. A respected dictionary of the Bible lists five possible individuals named James in the New Testament and then notes that they "are considered by many to be the same person." The secular Jewish historian Josephus reports that James was stoned to death in the year 61. Feast day is May 3.



5-17 Lou Ludington
5-17 Glenda Stockwell
5-17 Rene Rogers
5-17 Evelin Rodriguez
5-19 Jackie Schmitt
5-20 Michael Anderson
5-20 Emily Jobe
5-21 Quinn Jobe
5-22 Ellie Irvin
5-22 Steve Slough



BIRTHDAYS

Thanking God for Our Hands

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14).

If ever we were to run out of things to be thankful for—and that is inconceivable—we can thank God for our hands.

Our hands—we need to take good care of them because they come in so...well, “handy.” Hands, like other members of the body, can suffer from neglect or overuse. It was an eye-catching article in a newspaper that reported that a composer had written a special work, “A Concerto for Two Left Hands.” He wrote it for two pianists whose right hands were suffering from excessive use.

Our hands are God’s gifts. David prayed to God, “You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13). God gave us, as Martin Luther has taught us to confess, “eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses.” We can add to that: “God gave me hands.”

With our hands, we can take care of our personal needs: washing and dressing ourselves, eating and drinking. We can do our work with skilled hands. We can sew, as did Dorcas, “who was always doing good and helping the poor” (Acts 9:36). We can make an honest living as artists, artisans, mechanics. Any work with our hands is no disgrace if what we do is honest. “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands” (Ephesians 4:28).

*“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



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

The grass is green—it’s time to mow!!

If you are able to help in mowing the lawn around the church and rectory, and since we really don’t have access to a sign up sheet, please contact MaryLou Wolhoy at 712-303-0100.

It costs \$45/mowing to have someone do it and saving on yard care would be great! Please consider making a donation if you are unable to volunteer time and equipment. Any amount would be helpful and can also be sent to MaryLou.



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 and forever and eternally. Amen.

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

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, Ivan & Barbara Friend, Kelly Tobin, Dr. Tonia Baldwin, Sue Schaub, Gerald Long, Yan & Russell Shum, Beth Kline, Jerry and Jean Schweitzer, Pat Kasha, Keith Holderfield, & Renee Rogers.



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Beloved Brooklyn teacher, 30, dies of coronavirus after she was twice denied a COVID-19 test

ARIELLE MITROPOULOS and MARIYA MOSELEY

ABC News April 28, 2020, 7:39 PM CDT

A beloved 30-year-old middle school social studies teacher from Brooklyn has died of [COVID-19](#) following a month-long battle, after twice being turned away for testing before eventually being diagnosed with the virus.

Rana Zoe Mungin, who had been clinging to life in the hospital for more than a month, died on Monday afternoon, her mother confirmed to ABC News.

Despite repeated pleas for help and exhibiting various symptoms of the virus, Mungin was twice denied COVID-19 testing at Brooklyn's Brookdale Hospital, according to her family.

It was the same hospital where her older sister died of an asthma attack 15 years earlier. According to one of her friends, her condition was also dismissed as a "panic attack" by an EMT.

Mia Mungin, a registered New York City nurse, has been chronicling her sister's journey across social media for more than a month, and said "she fought a long fight but her body was too weak." "Racism and health disparities still continues ... [and] the zip code in which we live still predetermines the type of care we receive," Mia Mungin wrote on Facebook about the racial disparities in the health care system and the care received by her sister, who was black.

Rana Zoe Mungin taught at Ascend Academy in East New York, Brooklyn, an area of New York City that's among the hardest-hit by the coronavirus pandemic, according to data from the state's health department.

She was a first-generation college student who received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wellesley College and later earned a Master of Fine Arts from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in Creative Writing.

Her case echoes startling data released by the CDC showing that African Americans are being severely impacted by COVID-19 nationwide, accounting for 30% of coronavirus cases in the U.S. despite only comprising approximately 13% of the population.

[MORE: Blacks make up as many as 30% of COVID-19 cases, per early CDC figures](#)

"She died not only because of COVID-19, but because we live in a world that is racist and anti-black," her friend for more than a decade, Nohemi Maciel, told ABC News. "We know that black people are dying at disproportionate rates. This cannot be left out of the conversation."

"I'm heartbroken and don't know how to live in a world without Zoe. But I'm also angry. I'm angry that her students lost a wonderful and committed teacher, because representation matters," Maciel added.

Lauren Calihman, who met Mungin during her freshman year at Wellesley College, said that people who live in areas where city hospitals are underfunded are implicitly being told that "their lives don't matter, that they don't matter."

"Imagine if Zoe had received treatment consistent with the severity of her symptoms, rather than receiving treatment consistent with her origins," said Calihman.

"She was the kind of person so captivating and sincere in her dealings with others and her writing that she naturally attracted a following, and scores of friends and admirers recently fought tooth and nail for her without ever having met her," Calihman added.

"Zoe was my rock," Maciel added "I cheered her on through grad school and she did the same for me years later. Every accomplishment and setback, Zoe was one of the first to know. She was a fierce and loyal friend."

Wellesley College President Dr. Paula Johnson, founder and former executive director of the Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology as well as chief of the Division of Women's Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, called the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on black and Latinx families a "moral and systemic failure."

[\(MORE: Black Americans 'epicenter' of coronavirus crisis made worse by lack of insurance\)](#)

"Rana touched the lives of so many members of our community during her time here at Wellesley and beyond," Johnson, the first black woman to serve as the university's president, told ABC News in statement. "As a social studies educator in Brooklyn, Rana and her love of teaching exemplified Wellesley's mission to make a difference in the world, and our motto of Non Ministrari sed Ministrare, 'not to be ministered unto, but to minister.'"

Earlier this month, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the city would open five additional sites to prioritize the needs of low-income communities of color as an effort to address the racial disparity in coronavirus cases.

"For Zoe, Mayor de Blasio's efforts are too little and too late, but they may not be for someone else like her," Calihman said. "I can only hope her story ignites sweeping change."

What to know about the coronavirus:

How it started and how to protect yourself: [Coronavirus explained](#)

What to do if you have symptoms: [Coronavirus symptoms](#)

Tracking the spread in the U.S. and worldwide: [Coronavirus map](#)

PHOTO: Rana Zoe Mungin, a 30-year-old teacher from Brooklyn, New York, is pictured during a trip to the Grand Canyon in Arizona in 2018. (Courtesy Nohemi Maciel)



Your Gifts for God's Work	May 4-10, 2020
The Weeks Offering	\$195.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,562.50
Over/(Below)	(1,367.50)
Monthly Goal	\$6,250.00
Total for Month of May	\$195.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 16 St. Clare, Clarinda: Holy Mass at 4 PM
Sacred Heart, Bedford: Holy Mass at 6 PM
- May 17 St. Joseph, Villisca: Holy Mass at 8:30 AM
St. Clare, Clarinda: Holy Mass at 10:30 AM
- May 19 St. Clare, Clarinda: Holy Mass at 5PM
- May 20 St. Clare Holy Mass at 9AM
- May 23 St. Clare, Clarinda: Holy Mass at 4PM
Sacred Heart, Bedford: Holy Mass at 6PM
- May 24 St. Joseph, Villisca: Holy Mass at 8:30AM
St. Clare, Clarinda: Mass at 10:30AM

Mass Intentions @ St. Joseph, Villisca:

May 14: Jim & MaryLou Schimeroski from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 17: Jim & MaryLou Schimeroski from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 21: Bob & Linda Schiltz from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

Mass Intentions @ St. Clare, Clarinda:

May 15: Silverius & Mariann Muenchrath from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 16: Andy & Mildred Bruck and Leo & Marie Dresen from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 17: Jack Wolhoy by MaryLou Wolhoy
May 19: Mary Feser and Joe & Irene Leuschen from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 20: Betty Langenfeld and Alfred & Leonetta Kenkel from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling
May 22: Silverius & Mariann Muenchrath and Ambrose Muenchrath from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling

Mass Intentions @ Sacred Heart, Bedford:

May 16: Gene & Lois Sibenaller and Vince Stinn from St. Joseph's Parish, Earling



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 May 8th, St. Clare has had 17 donors respond with pledges and gifts of \$7,895 to bring the remaining balance to \$8,619 from the initial \$16,514 that we have been assessed. Thank you!

O JESUS

IN UNION WITH YOUR MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD POURED OUT ON THIS CROSS AND OFFERED IN EVERY MASS, I OFFER YOU TODAY MY PRAYERS, WORKS, JOYS, SORROWS AND SUFFERINGS FOR THE PRAISE OF YOUR HOLY NAME AND ALL THE DESIRES OF YOUR SACRED HEART; IN REPARATION FOR SIN, FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS, THE UNION OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND OUR FINAL UNION WITH YOU IN HEAVEN.



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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 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