

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 25, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

PALM SUNDAY

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

We enter the Holiest time of the year beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord. Many will not be entering prayerfully or as a community into those Sacred days for one reason or another. Yet, God entered into those dark and lonely days for you and me. So often we will not do for others because of some slight or inconvenience. Yet God was and is willing to be there us and bring us out of these dark and lonely notions. How? By being faithful. It seems that faithfulness to others and to God is scarce "these days." What does it mean to be faithful? There is no English word exactly equivalent to the biblical Hebrew terms concerning faithful or faithfulness. The most relevant carries such meanings as "strengthen," "support," or "hold up." When we think in those terms, we liken it to pillars that provide support for doors (2 Kgs

18:16). Moses used the word when he disclaimed any role as supporter of the Israelites (Nm 11:12). God, however, is an eternally firm support for his people (Dt 7:9; Is 49:7). (Sacks, S. D. (1988). Faithfulness. In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 1, pp. 764–765). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.) Faithfulness can be seen not only as a support, but a sense of "firmness," "constancy," and "trustworthiness." Trustworthiness, or steadfastness of character, is ascribed to the object of one's trust. In the Old Testament, a synonym for "faithfulness" is "truth." Since God is consistently true, he is the logical object of human trust (Ps 71:22; Is 61:8). In the Old Testament, the word "faithfulness" frequently refers to his unwavering commitment to his promises. (Sacks, S. D. 1988 Faithfulness. In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 1, pp. 764–765). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.) Faith is more than mo-

mentary assent to the truth of God. It is commitment to that truth, and it manifests itself in continued obedience. God teaches us how to live and work through dark and difficult times by remaining faithful to His direction as well as His corrections. Why? So that we might remain true and faithful and experience the reason for fidelity—and that is love of God and one another. Many examples of faithfulness to what is just, right and true, are found both in Sacred Scripture and throughout history. People were steadfast in their willingness to do what is right and true for the sake of others. Jesus Christ is the premiere example, Jesus' determination to be guided and instructed by His Father to reconcile mankind and to bring hope amidst the suffering, loneliness, and darkness of the world.

(cont'd on page 4)

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MASS TIMES
8AM SUNDAY
8:30AM WEDNESDAY
6:30PM THURSDAY

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Humility & Gratitude

-Submitted by David Witkowski

For as many years as I can remember, those people who I've had the greatest love and admiration for were people that were humble, grateful, and generally happy with themselves and the world around them.

The key words humble and grateful have come to mean a great deal to me over the past ten years or so. I wondered, in this season celebrating the time that Christ humbled himself on the cross for us—which should inspire us to be grateful—what did the church say about these seasonal emotions?

Regarding humility - *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted."* (Luke 18:14)

That seems to say it all or, rather, what more could be said.

Regarding Gratitude - this wonderful phrase comes to mind:

Gratitude is "the highest expression of prayer because it manifests one's experience of Divine Love [in him]." (Blessed Alvaro del Portillo)

Once again, there is little more that could be said about this very important and blessed emotion.

At what time of year, other than this one, could or should we consider being humble and thankful to the fullness of our capability?

Even with the great celebrations of other holidays, both religious and secular, there is no gift of eternal life to celebrate. There is no salvation that should humble us in its magnitude.

I hope you can feel as I do this season and see this as a time of humility and gratitude.



**The Annual Diocesan Appeal
Goal for St. John is \$7,029**

**Thank you for your support of
the Church in
Southwest Iowa!**

**New Balance as of March
16th:
\$6,004**

PRAYER & THANKSGIVING

- ◆ We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rick Richter for installing the new kitchen counters in the parish hall!
- ◆ To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohnallsaints@gmail.com

Liturgical Ministers Easter Sunday April 1

Cross Bearer: John Fagan

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gettler

Lector: Julie Plowman

Host: Sr. Andre

Cup: Scott Suhr & Les Elgin

Servers: Madison & Trevin Suhr

Traveling Chalice:

Kaye & Cleon Klemish

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

March 18th Collection \$448.50 **Kids:** \$6.50

Building Fund Balance as of 2/14: \$52.34

Building Fund: \$0.00

This Week's Income: \$455.00

This Week's Expenses: **\$1,647.47**

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

Council Members: John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees, Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 3-25</u>	<u>Monday 3-26</u>	<u>Tuesday 3-27</u>	<u>Wednesday 3-28</u>	<u>Thursday 3-29</u>	<u>Friday 3-30</u>	<u>Saturday 3-31</u>
<p>7:30am Confession/ Adoration/ Rosary</p> <p>8am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish</p>		<p>6pm Mass for Pat Donnelly (Stuart)</p> <p>BD: Adella Vogl</p>	<p>8:30am Mass for Joseph Vogl</p> <p>BD: Annie Brincks</p>	<p>HOLY THURSDAY 5:30pm Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish w/ Foot Washing (7pm at Stuart)</p> <p>ANN: Jason & Jennifer Calhoun 2003</p>	<p>GOOD FRIDAY 5:30pm Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish (7pm at Stuart)</p> <p>BD: Sophie Dorsey</p>	<p>8pm Easter Vigil at Stuart for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish</p>

DAILY READINGS

<p>Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47</p> <p><i>The Father responds to Jesus' willing self-sacrifice by raising him to glory.</i></p> <p>As we begin to recall and commemorate the events of that first Holy Week, when Jesus willingly laid aside his glory and embraced the cross for our salvation, may we be filled with gratitude and awe at one who loves us so much.</p>	<p>Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11</p> <p><i>Humbly doing God's work brings joy to the soul.</i></p> <p>As we enter Holy Week, we have an opportunity to reflect on the humility of Jesus as he willingly gave his life for us. Perhaps we have that ability, in our own lives, to humbly and quietly serve others as Jesus taught. In so doing, we bring joy to others, to our own souls and to our loving</p>	<p>God.</p> <p>Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 <i>The Word of God is a sharp-edged sword which penetrates into the deepest recesses of our hearts.</i></p> <p>In the biblical context, a name always carried not only a vocational call, but a divine sense of destiny. When one of the Lord's messengers is called a sharp-edged sword, it means that the person is able to think clearly and perceive keen possibilities about God's Word. We need to listen to that person intently and discover the</p>	<p>meaning for our lives.</p> <p>Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 <i>Let us rely upon the Father, as Jesus did, to help us endure our trials and sufferings.</i></p> <p>Holy Week is a time of deep contemplation. As we prepare to enter the Easter Triduum, we focus our attention on the events leading to our Lord's death and resurrection. Today's Gospel reveals the betrayal of Judas. His actions raise the question: have we betrayed others,</p>	<p>ourselves or Jesus?</p> <p>Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 <i>This is my body; this is my blood. This is the Real Presence.</i></p> <p>While today's Gospel tells of Jesus washing the disciples' feet to show the importance of humility, service and forgiveness, Paul's writing reminds us of our belief in the <i>Real Presence</i> of Jesus in the Eucharist—the bread and wine become his <i>real</i> body and blood. When we receive the Eucharist, Christ is in us! Therefore, we are emboldened</p>	<p>to be like Christ and serve others.</p> <p>Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 <i>As we walk the Way of the Cross and hear the Passion narrative, we reflect on God's love.</i></p> <p>Today as we hear the Passion narrative, venerate the cross and receive Holy Communion, we remember how much God loves us. He loves us enough to suffer and die, to transform the cross into the tree of life and to abide with us in the sacraments.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:1-2:2; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 55:1-11; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7</p> <p><i>We have a faithful, loving and generous God.</i></p> <p>Throughout history, our heavenly Father has revealed to us his loving nature, even to the point of sacrificing his only Son to prove his love and faithfulness to us. Sin has constantly separated us from him, but his loving forgiveness brings us back every time.</p>
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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Youth Ministry

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference Wants You

This year's youth conference in October will be called "Boldly Sent" and we want the youth of our diocese to be the ones to design its logo and t-shirt. Submissions can be made through Easter to Justin White; further details can be found on our website.

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference, known as DCYC, is a peer-led event gathering teens of the diocese together with their bishop in exploration and celebration of the Catholic faith. It's a one-day event with separate tracks for middle school (grades 6-8) & high school (grades 9-12).

Fanning the Flame Retreat

This retreat was rescheduled to April 7 due to weather. Therefore, registrations are still open.

Fanning the Flame is a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship, all oriented towards identifying the movements of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. This day will be very helpful for ninth and 10th graders preparing for confirmation. There is a separate track for sponsors and/or adult chaperones accompanying the teens to help them grow deeper in their faith as well. The cost is \$40 for teens and \$20 for adults. The retreat will be held at the St. Thomas More Center. For questions or registration information, please contact Justin White, director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 515-237-5098.

Dear Parishioners—continued

(cont'd from page 1)

Jesus did His Father's will and even at the most difficult and hardest of times, Jesus delighted in His Father for remaining true.

Faithfulness is not to be viewed as an isolated act. Rather it is an attitude that should characterize our entire life. Although we experience betrayal and have betrayed God and others, we are given the life to follow. As we pray at the Mass, "...at the time He (Jesus) was betrayed and entered willingly into His Passion..." He said, "...take this [bread and wine] which is Me and experience Me..." "...I do this for you, so that you might know of my love and faithfulness to you." By experiencing God's love and fidelity, we

might return to Him and become faithful.

In light of the growing number of reports of violence and hopelessness in the world, I invite our families to teach their children the love and faithfulness of God and the call of His people (the Church) to do the same. To teach their children to pray as a family and to encourage their personal prayer as well so they may grow in faith and trust of God, even when times are difficult. I pray you will encourage and teach the importance of the Mass, which is the source and summit of our faith. It is here we gather and learn how to be together through patience and forgiveness and focusing our attention - not on our disap-

pointments in one another, but to focus our attention on God and the hope He gives us. There are those who give excuses or a rationale for not being faithful to reconnecting at the Mass with God and one another.

Let us all change that and bring our family and friends to this Holiest of Weeks where we remember that God loves us so much that He endured trials like we did - and worse - and ultimately showed how much He loved us by willingly dying for us to prove that love.

Have a wonderful Holy Week!

Fr. Ray

SAVE THE DATE...

- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt after Mass on Sunday April 1st. Candy donations are appreciated and may be left at the rear of the church.**
- ◆ **Faith Formation final class days: April 8th & 22nd and May 6th.**
- ◆ **May 2nd — May Crowning & Procession at All Saints 6:30pm**