

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 22, 2018

501 Adair Street, Adair, IA 50002

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Raymond J. Higgins, Parish Priest

DEAR PARISHIONERS

If you missed Mass last weekend due to the weather conditions, you may not have heard the announcement that I have been given a new parish assignment beginning July 12th.

It is with a heavy heart that I will be making this move, as I have come to know and appreciate you through these past ten years.

We all know, as Catholics, priests are moved after a six-year term (or a second term, sometimes). Still, it is difficult, when the time comes, to actually know the move has been implemented and there is a definite date given by the Bishop.

I will be moving to St. Theresa's parish and school with my first

Mass being said there on July 14th. Taking my place here will be Fr. Anthony Matthew who is currently assigned to Audubon and Exira.

Change can be a difficult experience. Difficult because of leaving the people of I have come to know and appreciate.

My hope is there will be opportunities to see you, even in the busyness of a new assignment.

Other reasons for difficulty "always" include unresolved issues or situations folks may have concerning me or towards others.

My hope is, by God's grace, we may have peace with each other through forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation.

It may also seem difficult

to think of a new pastor and how he may affect the community. My answer is to welcome him, get to know him, help him, encourage him, pray for him, and to continue to practice and maintain Christian hospitality toward one another.

Again, I will surely miss you, but in the meantime, let us continue to love and serve the Lord in the way he lived and taught.

Here is a picture of Fr. Anthony Matthew-pray for him so that He may continue to serve God and you as a good and holy priest.



Man-Up Event May 8

All men are invited to meet up for Man-Up's next event, "Don't Stop Believin: Keeping the Faith Through FOCUS," on Tuesday, May 8, at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny. We'll

start with a 5:20pm Rosary followed by 5:45pm Mass and 6:30pm dinner and program. Hear how other men are keeping the faith in this engaging panel discussion featuring Dea-



con Tom Bradley, Fr. Jon Seda, Fr. Mark Owusu, and Addie Magruder with students from ISU, Drake, and DCHS. Register at IowaCatholicRadio.com, or call 515-223-1150.

CONTACT US:

- ◆ Parish Office
515-523-1943
- ◆ Brenda Wedemeyer,
Communications
stjohnallsaints@gmail.com
- ◆ Rita Rilea, Financial Sec.
allsaintsoffice@gmail.com
- ◆ St. John's Men's Group
Francis Hollinrake
742-5016
- ◆ CWO Betty Ludwig
blludwig50002@yahoo.com
Parish Hall
(641)742-5045

MASS TIMES
8AM SUNDAY
8:30AM WEDNESDAY
CONFESSION:
7:30AM SUNDAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Sign of the Cross Part 1</i>	2
<i>Prayers & Thanks</i>	2
<i>Liturgical Schedule, Finance Report</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>Read & Share</i>	3
<i>Around the Diocese</i>	4
<i>Thoughts from Jodi...</i>	4
<i>Save the Date</i>	4

21 Things We Do When We Make the Sign of the Cross

-Submitted by David Witkowski

This is part one of a four-part series.

The Sign of the Cross is a simple gesture, yet a profound expression of faith for both Catholic and Orthodox Christians. As Catholics, it's something we do when we enter a church, after we receive Communion, before meals, and every time we pray. But what exactly are we doing when we make the Sign of the Cross?

Here are 21 things:

1. Pray.

We begin and end our prayers with the Sign of the Cross, perhaps not realizing that the sign is itself a prayer. If prayer is, at its core, "an uprising of the mind to God," as St. John Damascene put it, then the Sign of the Cross assuredly qualifies. "No empty gesture, the sign of the cross is a potent prayer that engages the Holy Spirit as the divine advocate and agent of our successful Christian living," writes Bert Ghezzi.

2. Open ourselves to grace.

As a sacramental, the Sign of the Cross prepares us for receiving God's blessing and disposes us to cooperate with His grace, according to Ghezzi.

3. Sanctify the day.

As an act repeated throughout the key moments of each day, the Sign of the Cross sanctifies our day. "At every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at table, when we light the lamps, on couch, on seat, in all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign," wrote Tertullian.

4. Commit the whole self to Christ.

In moving our hands from our foreheads to our hearts and then both shoulders, we are asking God's blessing for our mind, our passions and desires, our very bodies. In other words, the Sign of the Cross com-

mits us, body and soul, mind and heart, to Christ. (I'm paraphrasing this Russian Orthodox writer.) "Let it take in your whole being—body, soul, mind, will, thoughts, feelings, your doing and not-doing—and by signing it with the cross, strengthen and consecrate the whole in the strength of Christ, in the name of the Triune God," said twentieth century theologian Romano Guardini.

5. Recall the Incarnation.

Our movement is downward, from our foreheads to our chest "because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth," Pope Innocent III wrote in his instructions on making the Sign of the Cross. Holding two fingers together—either the thumb with the ring finger or with index finger—also represents the two natures of Christ.

Prayer & Thanksgiving

The St. John's Men's Group is thanking the Altar Servers by taking them to the Get Air Trampoline Park on Sunday, April 22. Please meet at the Church at 1:00 pm. Supper will be provided at Pizza Ranch.

To request prayer, please call the Church office at 515-523-1943, Adella Vogl at 641-742-5277, or email: stjohndallsaints@gmail.com

Liturgical Ministers Sunday April 29

Cross Bearer: Scott Suhr

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Darrin Plowman

Lector: Barb Bachman

Host: Sr. Nesta

Cup: Dave Richter & Matt Fagan

Servers: Trevin & Madison Suhr

Traveling Chalice:

John & Kathy Fagan

PARISH BUSINESS & FINANCE REPORT

April 8th Collection \$349.00 **Kids:** \$6.00

Building Fund Balance as of 4/12: \$1,225.05

Building Fund: \$97.00

This Week's Income: \$355.00

This Week's Expenses: **\$1,555.55**

ADA 2018 Goal: \$7,029 Balance Due As Of 3/29: \$3,709

Trustees: Sheryl Drees, Les Elgin

Council Members: John Fagan, Monica Fagan, Larry Drees,

Kenneth Ludwig, Marcia Gettler

Financial Secretary: Rita Rilea

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday 4-22</u>	<u>Monday 4-23</u>	<u>Tuesday 4-24</u>	<u>Wednesday 4-25</u>	<u>Thursday 4-26</u>	<u>Friday 4-27</u>	<u>Saturday 4-28</u>
7:30am Confession/ Adoration/Rosary 8am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members of the Parish BD: Blaize Dorsey		6pm Mass for <i>Maxine Carey</i> <i>(Stuart)</i> <i>6:30pm Adult Ed</i> <i>Class—Stuart</i>	8:30am Mass for Joseph Vogl	BD: Kenneth Ludwig	ANN: Brett & Stephanie Dorsey 2002	3:30pm Confessions at Stuart 4:30pm Mass at Stuart for Irene Kernz

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL READ & SHARE SPACE

To help facilitate our reading of *“The Joy of the Gospel”* and to encourage us to share with one another, this space is meant for us to use as a study aid. Each paragraph throughout the book is numbered consecutively, to make it easier to reference any spot in the book that we may want to discuss further or ask questions about. Feel free to offer any thoughts or questions that you may want published in the bulletin—others may have the same thoughts or questions.

Chapter Three: *The Proclamation of the Gospel*

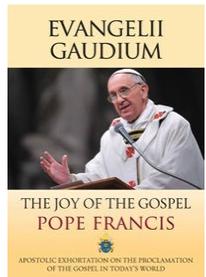
There are several subheadings under each of the two sections.

Section I. The Entire People of God Proclaims the Gospel _____

Section II. The Homily _____

Section III. Preparing to Preach _____

Section IV. Evangelization and the Deeper Understanding of the *Kerygma* _____



BISHOP NAMES NEW CATHOLIC CHARITIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bishop Richard Pates has named Dr. Barbara Quijano Decker, J.D. as the new executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Des Moines. In this role, she will oversee a staff of approximately 80 full and part-time staff in Des Moines and Council Bluffs who serve those living in the 23 counties of the Diocese of Des Moines. She will guide programs and services, work with community and church leadership and advocate on behalf of the vulnerable and needy. Bishop Pates named Decker based on the recommendation of a search committee.

She currently serves as president of Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, a role she has held since 2005. Prior to joining Mercy College, she held human resource roles at Mercy Medical Center and Drake University in Des Moines. Throughout her career, she has had varied experiences in human resources, higher education and health care.

Decker graduated from Drake University with her Juris Doctorate degree and holds a Master of Public Administration degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and sociology. She was admitted to the

Iowa State Bar upon her graduation from the Drake Law School in July 2000.

Decker has received scholastic honors from national honor societies and recognized with several awards, including the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, one of the highest honors given to a lay person by the pope, which she received in November 2017.

Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines is thrilled Decker is joining Catholic Charities.

"We are tremendously grateful for Dr. Decker's decision to become our new leader at Catholic Charities," he said. "She has tremendous leadership skills and has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to serving our community.

"Dr. Decker has also shown great concern for those who need a helping hand from the immigrant to the hungry and young single parent seeking an education and a better life," Bishop Pates continued.

"These are the people Catholic Charities serves."

Rick Ball, vice chair of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, said, "Dr. Decker has a deep-seated compassion for people

who need assistance and a chance to improve their personal situation."

Decker will bring a faith-based approach to Catholic Charities "and provide a solid leadership amongst the Des Moines business community," he added.

Decker succeeds Nancy Galeazzi, who retired last year. Galeazzi served 30 years at Catholic Charities, 15 of those years as executive director.

Catholic Charities has been serving the needs of individuals since 1925 with a wide range of social service programs offering food, shelter, counseling, advocacy and hope to more than 30,000 people each year.

Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) social service organization that serves people of all faiths in the 23-county area covering central and southwest Iowa.

Program services include counseling, domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy and emergency shelter, refugee resettlement, empowerment services, adoption advocacy and reunification efforts, and operates an emergency shelter for homeless families with children.

Pastoral Center Open House Announced

Celebrating the renovation of the Catholic Pastoral Center

(Historic Home Federal Savings and Loan Building)

Ribbon Cutting Tuesday, May 8, 2018 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tours of the site provided and ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m.

Celebration Dinner Tuesday, May 15, 2018 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tours 5:00 p.m. and Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Diocese of Des Moines Community Celebration Open House

Sunday, June 3, 2018 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Events located at Catholic Pastoral Center
All are welcome—fun for the family! 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Save these dates:

- ◆ **Faith Formation**
final class days:
April 22 and May 6th.
- ◆ **May 6th — May Crowning**
Faith Formation students will be taking part in the event