CELIAC DISEASE

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The week begins the last Sunday in January and runs all week, this year, January 29 – February 4. The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” This weekend most of our ministers are our young parishioners who are students at our Catholic School: Kuemper. Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide. Many parishes join in the National Catholic Schools Week celebration by devoting a Mass to Catholic education. Schools start the week by inviting parishioners and community members to parish-centered events and school open houses that feature their outstanding academic programs, religious education and service opportunities. Please check out our website and Kuemper’s website for more information about Catholic Schools Week at Kuemper. Please remember your parish in your will….Your bequest is a testimony to your faith in our future. —Fr. Mark

For All Parishes:
- Briar Cliff Sunday is January 28/29 to assist with scholarships for Briar Cliff students. Currently, 98% of Briar Cliff students depend on scholarship aid to make it possible for them to attend the only Catholic University in the Diocese of Sioux City. Thank you for helping these young members of our parishes by contributing to the Briar Cliff Sunday offering using the envelope in your collection packet. [Note @Mount Carmel and Breda this envelope is found on January 22 but is for January 29.]
- Candlemas Day [presentation of the Lord] will be celebrated February 2. The Mass begins with the blessing of candles to be used in the liturgies. You are invited to bring your candles to be blessed for the home.
- Blessing of Throats [ST. BLAISE DAY] will be celebrated Friday February 3 after the 8:00 a.m. Masses.
- Celiac Disease is a problem some people have with foods that contain gluten, a type of protein found in grains including wheat, barley, and rye that when eaten triggers an immune response that is not normal and damages the inside of the small intestine so that it cannot do a good job of absorbing nutrients from food. Persons with this disease have a problem with receiving the Body of Christ in Holy Communion as the host contains whole wheat flour that contains gluten. Persons with this disease have three options: not receive Holy Communion [not a very good option], receive on the Precious Blood from the communion chalice, and/or request...
the use of LOW GLUTEN HOSTS which have a gluten content of 20 parts per million which is approved for used by the USCCB for those with non-celiac gluten sensitivity. Persons with severe Celiac Disease should not receive the low gluten hosts. Some parishes around the diocese offer these low gluten hosts including ours. If you have non-celiac gluten sensitivity, please contact Fr. Mark to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion via a low gluten host.

**MASS OFFERINGS,** a longstanding custom in our Church to provide monetary support to the clergy, are a supplemental income for most priests. The Law of the Church permits priests to offer only ONE [1] Mass offering per Mass per day, to offer a Mass for all parishioners at one Sunday Mass, only accept the number of Masses he is able to fulfill in one year, and to send any excess offerings to the missions through the Propagation of the Faith Office. Mass Offerings may be offered for any living or deceased person[s] or other intention. Masses for the deceased may be in purgatory (traditionally noted with a ‘+’ behind their name[s]), thus It is not necessary to offer Masses for those in heaven [i.e. Saints and children who die before age 7]. As of January 21, offerings in our three [3] parishes are being accepted only in accordance with Church practice by Fr. Mark. As required by Church Law, donor’s wishes for Mass Offerings who have requested dates prior to January 21 will be respected and will be fulfilled with Masses offered in the parish and on the dates requested. However, some modifications to donors’ wishes may need to be made depending on the direction of Ministry 2025. This will be addressed at the proper time with donors which may include asking donors the permission for their offerings to be sent to other parishes and/or to mission parishes. Please address all Mass Offering requests to Fr. Mark.

**CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS** will help us discover the figures that shaped the Church and changed the world. In each session, we will watch a DVD presentation by Bishop Robert Barron as he discusses one of the six people he believes has left an imprint on the work of the Church over the Centuries. We will continue our series of faith formation sessions on Sunday evening, February 12, 6:30 p.m. with St. Thomas Aquinas: The Theologian, Part II in the Family Ministry room in the St. Bernard school building. There is no fee. Please join us even if you missed previous sessions.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF LOURDES & FATIMA:** Come along with us Nov. 3-13, 2017, to this meaningful journey to Spair, Portugal & France. Mass each day. Cost is $3,289 with departure from Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. John Vakulskas, Box 347, Oakoboji, IA 51355; 712-490-8047; johnvakulskas@gmail.com.

**CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE** and Facebook pages for more news [which does not fit into this bulletin] regarding the announcement in January regarding the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2025, on Mass Offerings, and from Kuemper.

**PERSONS WISHING TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**, whether baptized in another faith or unbaptized and over the age of seven [7], may contact the pastor at any time of the year to begin the process known as RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 1965]. For more information, call Parish Office, Julie Eich, 712-629-2595, Hours: Mon. & Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. – 2553), Aaron and Carrie Schulz (790-2549), Brian and Kayla Tiefenthaler (830-2269), Aaron and Alyce Nieland (830-2244), Aaron and Alyce Nieland (830-1823), Kevin and Stephanie Neumayer (830-4914), Devin and Mimi Pudenz (790-2553), Aaron and Carrie Schulz (790-9617).

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**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION UPDATING,** rescheduled from January 25 will be offered by Fr. Mark and Deacon Greg for all current EMOHC [Rite of Christian Initiation of Children].

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL to register by January 31 and/or check out the parish website for more information. Total cost is $225.**

Please pray in your prayers the repose of the soul of John A. Vonnahme whose funeral was held on Saturday at St. John’s. Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of John A. Vonnahme whose funeral was held on Saturday at St. John’s.

**Kuemper Ball:** Purchase tickets or donate please contact any of the committee members: Brian and Kayla Tiefenthaler (830-5166), Alex and Erin Koster (210-2244), Aaron and Alyce Nieland (830-1823), Kevin and Stephanie Neumayer (830-4914), Devin and Mimi Pudenz (790-2553), Aaron and Carrie Schulz (790-9617).

**Catholic School to register by January 31 and/or check out the parish website for more information. Total cost is $225.**

**Kuemper Ball:** Purchase tickets or donate please contact any of the committee members: Brian and Kayla Tiefenthaler (830-5166), Alex and Erin Koster (210-2244), Aaron and Alyce Nieland (830-1823), Kevin and Stephanie Neumayer (830-4914), Devin and Mimi Pudenz (790-2553), Aaron and Carrie Schulz (790-9617).

**Kuemper Ball:** Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2017 Kuemper Ball. Donation envelopes will be available (attached to the bulletin or in the back of church) the weekend of February 4th & 5th. You can return your donation to the ushers during collection, to Kuemper, or to Carroll County State Bank. You are also able to donate online at www.kuemper.org (Kuemper Ball 2017). The Ball theme will be announced on February 1st. Thank you for supporting our mission of providing a Christ-centered environment where students grow spiritually, academically, and socially, becoming responsible citizens of the world.