

March 22, 2020



St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate

The mission of the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate is to use our love and faith to inspire and serve God's people by cultivating a welcoming Catholic Community – working as one and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Directory

Pastor, Rev. Douglas Loecke (563)852-7805
E-mail dbqcm1@dbqarch.org
Deacon Marvin Recker (retired) (563)879-3448
Deacon Steve Strang (563)852-3435
Deacon Ray Noonan (563)852-3181
Deacon Joe Schockemoehl (563)852-3126

Director of Faith Formation -
Nicole Casey (563)852-3331
E-mail dbq023ff@dbqarch.org

Pastorate Office

408 3rd Ave. NW; PO Box 699, Cascade, IA 52033
Phone (563)852-3524
FAX (563)852-3528
E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
Website www.stapastorate.org
Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm
Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm

Pastorate Support Staff

Business Manager, Kerri Takes
E-mail dbq023bm@dbqarch.org
Administrative Assistant, Shellie Schlemme
E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
Music Ministry, Becky Williams
E-mail dbq023s@dbqarch.org

Aquin System of Catholic Education

Aquin Catholic Elementary School (563)852-3331
Principal, Vicki Palmer
E-mail vpalmer@aquin.org
Aquin Little Angels Early Childhood Ctr 563-852-7020
Director, Jenny Recker jrecker@aquin.org

New Parishioners

Welcome! Contact the pastorate office 563-852-3524

Baptisms

Baptism class required. Next class–June 1, 2020, 7pm
Contact Ray & Carol Noonan at 852-3181 to register for the class.
Contact the pastorate office to schedule a baptism.

Weddings

Contact Fr. Loecke at least six months prior to the wedding date.

Pastorate Council

Chuck Shanahan - Chair
Bob Green – Vice Chair
Kevin Schockemoehl - Secretary
Karen Knepper, Mike Otting,
Chuck Noonan, Ed Stoll, Eric Vaske

Parish Council Contacts

St. Patrick – Wanda Loewen
Sacred Heart – Chuck Noonan
St. Peter – Kevin Schockemoehl
St. Matthias – Bob Green

Pastorate Committee Opportunities

Call the Pastorate Office for more info
Community Life, Faith Formation, Liturgy, Social Justice

Prayer Requests

Eileen Steffen – 852-7168
Anita Gudenkauf – 852-3043
Shirley Curoe - 563-599-3973
Joyce Gibbs – 879-3271

Liturgy Schedule

(Cascade-C; Fillmore-F; Garryowen-G; Temple Hill-T
W/C-Word & Communion Service)

Mon Mar. 23	12:00pm (C) Max & Jeannie Nolte*
Tue Mar. 24	12:00pm (C) Ann O'Brien*
Wed Mar. 25	12:00pm (C) Bee Gudenkauf & Ade Kurt*
Thu Mar. 26	12:00pm (C) Bill & Imelda Beringer*
Fri Mar. 27	12:00pm (C) Ed & Lucy Green*
Sat Mar. 28	12:00pm (C) Helen Laban & James Kremer, 5 yr. anniv.*
Sun Mar. 29	12:00pm (C) All Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate & Marion Manternach*

***Father will say Mass each day at noon at St. Matthias. The church will not be open to anyone during this time, but you can also honor God in your home each day at noon with prayer to ask him for his help during this difficult time.**

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2020

Pastorate

All parish and school related functions are now postponed until a later date. We are getting everchanging information from the Archdiocese and our government so we are trying to keep up with the changes as the information is given. If you are unsure about an event, please call the Pastorate Office at 852-3524. There will be a few bulletins printed in the church for those that can't get the bulletin online. For all others, you can read the bulletin by Fridays at stapastorate.org

To the Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate,

It is with sadness & regret that I write this. As of March 18, 2020 I will no longer be serving as the Pastoral Associate/Heath Ministry. This is a decision that was not made lightly.

The position was just more time consuming than I had anticipated & it required more energy than I was able to give to it at this stage in my life. So, for health reasons & with the support of Father Loecke, I have made the decision to retire. It has been an honor & pleasure to get to know and to have served each and every one of you these past nine months.

Sincerely, Julie Dunne

Father Loecke's Holy Land Experience Presentation –

Will be postponed until later notice.

Befriender Day of Reflection, Wed, March 25, 2020 is now postponed. A rescheduled date will be posted at later time.

The Aquin Gala is now rescheduled for April 25, 2020. We will keep you posted if there are any changes.

All Pastorate/Parish Meetings will be postponed until a later date.

The Knights of Columbus Palm Sunday Breakfast is postponed until a later date.

Donations for Easter flowers will be accepted through Monday, April 6, 2020. The requested donation is \$15. Please place your donation in an envelope and on a separate sheet of paper or on the outside of the envelope include the parish receiving the donation, your name and the name of the person(s) for whom the memorial is being made. If you are donating money for flowers to more than one church, please make separate checks to each church.

We will still decorate the churches with Easter Lilies regardless if we have Mass or not. And the names of your loved ones will be listed in the bulletin the week after Easter.

Caring for Your Marriage - "Not as man sees does God see...the Lord looks into the heart." (1 Sam 16:7) Do you look into your spouse's heart? Do you let them look into yours? Cherish the opportunity to go beyond appearances with the one you love.

Sacred Heart, Fillmore

Sacred Heart Generosity: Mar. 14-15, 2020: Budget: \$495.00; Offertory: \$75.83; EFT: \$50.00; Total: \$618.83

St. Patrick, Garryowen

St. Patrick Generosity: Mar. 14-15, 2020 – Budget: \$388.00; Offertory: \$703.43; Children's Collection: \$5.00; Total: 1,096.43

St. Peter, Temple Hill

St. Peter Generosity: Mar. 14-15, 2020 – Budget: \$345.00; Youth Budget: \$1.00; EFT: \$150.00; Total: \$496.00

St. Matthias, Cascade

St. Matthias Generosity: Mar. 15-16, 2020 – Budget: \$4,060.00; Offertory: \$330.50; Children's Collection: \$31.25; EFT: \$4,507.00; Easter: \$10.00; Total: \$8,938.75

Remember our loved ones at the nursing homes and assisted living centers with letters or cards during this time that people won't be getting out or getting visitors.

Six Ways to Evangelize during Lent:

1. Ash Wednesday
2. Abstinence
3. Fasting
4. Conversion
5. **Symbolism** – Sometimes one of the hardest things to explain as a Catholic is our attachment to symbolism. Palm Sunday is a great example of that. We come home from Mass holding palm branches, and we tuck them behind a crucifix or next to the picture of the Last Supper. To anyone who does not know our faith, it looks as though we stuck a few weeds on the wall....imagine their questions! The truth behind this tradition, however goes to the story of Palm Sunday, when the people heard that Christ was coming and "they took out palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the king of Israel.: (John 12:13). It was a tradition to spread palms before a king as he processed into his city. It was a way to welcome him, to show him glory and homage. Thus, Christ, the true King, was welcomed into Jerusalem. This fulfilled the prophecy in the Old Testament, which declared, "Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble and riding on a donkey." (Zech. 9:9) It revealed that Christ was a great king, but also a humble king. The people greeted him with a wild joy and cheers to Hosanna. But one short week later, they crucified him. We celebrate this feast and carry palm branches home with us to commemorate the great humility of Our Lord, who love us so much that he chose the cross for our salvation.
6. The Journey to the Cross

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we obtained during Confirmation – we are now supposed to be praying for the release of these gifts at this time:

Wisdom is both the knowledge of and judgment about "divine things" and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth (I/I.1.6; I/II.69.3; II/II.8.6; II/II.45.1–5).

Understanding is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to "see" God (I/I.12.5; I/II.69.2; II/II.8.1–3).

Counsel allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation (II/II.52.1).

Fortitude denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life (I/II.61.3; II/II.123.2; II/II.139.1).

Knowledge is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice (II/II.9.3).

Piety is, principally, revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. The Latin word *pietas* denotes the reverence that we give to our father and to our country; since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety (I/II.68.4; II/II.121.1).

Fear of God is, in this context, “filial” or chaste fear whereby we revere God and avoid separating ourselves from him—as opposed to “servile” fear, whereby we fear punishment (I/II.67.4; II/II.19.9).

These gifts, according to Aquinas, are “habits,” “instincts,” or “dispositions” provided by God as supernatural helps to man in the process of his “perfection.” They enable man to transcend the limitations of human reason and human nature and participate in the very life of God, as Christ promised (John 14:23). Aquinas insisted that they are necessary for man’s salvation, which he cannot achieve on his own. They serve to “perfect” the four cardinal or moral virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) and the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity). The virtue of charity is the key that unlocks the potential power of the seven gifts, which can (and will) lie dormant in the soul after baptism unless so acted upon.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Here is a CNS translation of the prayer Pope Francis recited by video March 11 for a special Mass and act of prayer asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during of the coronavirus pandemic.

O Mary,

**you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.**

**We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your
faith firm.**

**You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.**

**Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.**

**Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of
God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed
Virgin.**

All St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Parishioners

should have received a letter from Fr. Loecke regarding no Mass and the days ahead. If you did not receive the letter, please call the Pastorate Office at 852-3524 and we will make sure that you receive one.

In this letter it states the following:

Even though there will be no public Masses until further notice, I will still offer the Holy Mass, but without a congregation. This Mass will be offered every day at 12 noon. **When I am offering Mass I would ask that everyone take a bit of time to offer a prayer asking for God’s help and protection as well as offering an act of Spiritual Communion** (which is below). While we are unable to gather at the same time physically, we can be united with one another in prayer. Please set an alarm on your phone or watch or use some other reminder to offer prayer when the Mass is being celebrated. More than ever, it is important to stay close to Jesus as we ask for His help. The church will be open during the day for anyone who wants to stop and pray, but please **DO NOT** come for Mass at noon.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me
to be separated from You.
Amen.

Fasting & Abstinence:

Conscious of our great need, and confident of God’s loving care, with the above intentions in mind, all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Dubuque are invited to join in a day of fast, abstinence, and prayer on Wednesday, 25 March 2020; this is voluntary, not obligatory.

On that day, people ordinarily bound on Ash Wednesday to fast (only one full meal, taking less at the other meals) and abstain from meat are invited to make those same sacrifices. And as far as prayer is concerned, the Rosary is recommended as a powerful prayer, prayed alone or with others.

Recipe for Hand Sanitizer

2/3 c. 99% rubbing alcohol (isophophyl alcohol)
1/3 c. aloe vera gel
8-10 drops of Essential Oil is optional
(lavender, orange, peppermint, eucalyptus, or lemongrass)

**If you use other hand sanitizer, choose one that is at least 60% alcohol. Always rub sanitizer into hands until completely dry.