

April 5, 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

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 Apr. 6	12:00pm (C)	Adrian Vaske*
Tue Apr. 7	12:00pm (C)	Gary Kelchen & David Quint*
Wed Apr. 8	12:00pm (C)	Travis Kurt & Pat Kurt*
Thu Apr. 9	7:00pm (C)	Holy Thursday – Special Intention*
Fri Apr. 10	2:30pm (C)	Good Friday - Special Intention*
Sat Apr. 11	7:30pm (C)	Holy Saturday - Special Intention*
Sun Apr. 12	9:00am (C)	Easter Sunday Special Intention*

***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.**

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

From Father Loecke

Dear Parishioners,
I was looking at a picture of my nephew Kael and myself taken on Christmas Eve, 2019, in front of the Nativity scene at Cascade. As I looked at that photo, I thought to myself, who would have guessed that three months later we would be in one of the most difficult periods of recent human history. I wish we could roll back the calendar to the days before all of this pandemic began to unfold. As I have gotten older, I have wished time would slow down, but now I just wish we could skip over the next months and find out where we will be and what we will be doing. Without a doubt, this virus will have a significant impact on the way we live in the future. I doubt there will be much going back to the way things were prior to the virus.

This weekend, we begin the most important week of the Church's life, Holy Week. I have always looked forward to Holy Week but, unfortunately, Holy Week 2020 will be rather painful in that no public celebrations are allowed and even more painful is the fact there will be no public Easter Masses. Sometimes I have to stop and ask myself if this is really happening. I just find it all so tragic. But it is the hand that has been given to us at this time, so we need to make Holy Week still meaningful but in a very different way.

We will live stream Palm Sunday Mass beginning at 9 am on Facebook and our website at www.stapastorate.org. It will also be shown on our local access channel at a later time. As per the directives from the Archbishop, there will be no blessing of palms this year. After Mass, (approximately 9:45 am) I will be in front of the church offering a family blessing to all those who wish to receive this blessing. All you need to do is drive by where I am standing and I will sprinkle Holy Water on every vehicle asking God's special protection to be with you and your family. I will then go to St. Patrick (approximately 11:00am) and bless cars there also. I must say not seeing all of you the past two weekends have not been easy. I look forward to the day when Mass will once again be offered and I will be able to greet you in person as you pass through the church door.

Here is the schedule for the rest of Holy Week. Again, all of these events will be live-streamed on Facebook, our website and it will be shown on the local access channel at a later time.

Holy Thursday will be at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday will be at 2:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday will be at 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday will be at 9:00 a.m.

I wish each of you a meaningful Holy Week and a Happy Easter day!

Fr. Loecke

Pastorate

If you go to the [pastorate Facebook page](#), St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate, you will find reflections I have written with the hope of offering encouragement. You can also find the reflections on the parish website under the tab "Bulletins & Daily Meditation".

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, and the names of your loved ones will be listed in the bulletin the week after Easter.

Caring for Your Marriage - Palm Sunday reminds us that life is a roller coaster. One day we're shouting "Alleluia." Five days later we're in the shock of death and grief on Good Friday. Just as marriage "highs" don't last forever, neither do the "lows." Be willing to ride the hills and valleys. Pray to enter fully into Holy Week with your spouse and children.

All Parish Cemetery Reminder:
Please remove any winter decorations on grave sites that will interfere with mowing and spring clean-up.

Sacred Heart, Fillmore

Sacred Heart Generosity: Mar. 17-29, 2020: Budget/Total: \$170.00

St. Patrick, Garryowen

St. Patrick Generosity: Mar. 17-29, 2020 – Budget: \$650.00; Offertory: \$400.00; EFT: \$575.00; Total: 1,625.00
**Thank you to all who worked and attended the Irish Breakfast! The net income is over \$5100.00.

St. Peter, Temple Hill

St. Peter Generosity: Mar. 17-29, 2020 – Budget: 2,200.00, Pasture Rent: \$700.00; Hall Rent: \$75.00: Total: \$2,975.00

St. Matthias, Cascade

St. Matthias Generosity: Mar. 17-29, 2020 – Budget: \$6,860.00; Easter: \$1,085.00; Total: \$7,945.00

Palms vs. Passion by Father Larry Rice

Each year at around this time, as Lent draws to a close, and Easter nears, Catholic everywhere look at their parish bulletins, missalettes, and publications, and wonder why the last Sunday in Lent is called "Passion Sunday."

The formal designation changed in 1970; still, many people are much more accustomed to calling it "Palm Sunday."

The palms, of course, are a commemoration of the ancient custom of covering the path of an honored person as he passed by. In many parts of the Near East, this was among the highest honors, often reserved for royalty. All four of the Gospels speak of Jesus receiving this honor as he entered

triumphantly into Jerusalem, days before his execution. In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the crowds are said to have laid their cloaks in the street, as well as cut rushed. Only John's Gospel specifically mentions palm fronds.

It's the custom in Catholic churches to give people palms that are blessed at the beginning of the liturgy and carried in procession at the start of the mass. It is many people's private custom to weave these palms into crosses or other shapes during the liturgy. I would like to believe that they're not doing this during my homily, but experience tells me they are.

Ultimately, the celebration of this day isn't about the palms, any more than the celebration of Christmas is about decorated evergreen trees. As the prayers and scripture readings make clear, the liturgy is really about Christ's passion—his willingness to suffer for our salvation and the forgiveness of our sins. By the end of the reading of the passion narrative, the palms seems sad and ironic, as the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem would be transformed into the crowd shouting "Crucify him!" during his trial. Human fickleness and frailty are contrasted with Jesus' integrity and courage.

So, it makes sense to call it "Passion Sunday." Still, old customs and old terminology don't change easily.

10 Pointers for Prayer

The baby's crying, the dog is whining, and you need to leave for work in five minutes. Finding time for prayer can seem impossible. Amid the busyness of family life, how can one respond to God's ongoing invitation to speak with and listen to Him? Here are ten pointers to help you do just that.

1. **Pray as you can, not as you can't.** God calls most Christians to an active life in the world, with family, work and community responsibilities. Such a call, while holy, does not usually allow for long periods of prayer and reflection. Lay people can become discouraged when they try to pray like a cloistered contemplative. Be realistic about what's possible.
2. **Take ten – or twenty.** If a half hour for prayer Isn't possible, how about ten minutes, or twenty? Choose a good time of day and stick with it. Designate a special site for prayer so that spot becomes holy. Spouses can help by minding children during respective quiet times.
3. **Pray as a family.** Build upon rituals such as grace before meals. In addition to the usual "Bless us, O Lord...", encourage family members to offer thanks for the blessings of the day, as well as prayers for those in need. Couples can deepen their spiritual relationship by taking a few minutes, perhaps before bedtime, to commend to God the joys and sorrows of the day.
4. **Decorate your domestic church.** When we enter our parish church, the statues and pictures focus our minds on Jesus, Mary and the saints. We can create an atmosphere for prayer in our home—the domestic church—by displaying a crucifix, icons, the Bible and other holy objects. Take the children to a religious goods store and let them choose a picture or statue for their rooms.
5. **Short prayers count, too.** When you're stopped at a long light or put on hold, consider it as God's invitation to turn your heart and mind to him, if only for a few seconds.

6. **Find God at work.** Connecting with God in the workplace takes effort. Try to cultivate a few simple habits. For example, offer the day to God as you turn on your computer, or pray for the person you're about to call or wait upon.
7. **Jump start your prayer life.** Sooner or later almost everyone experiences dryness in prayer. God seems far away and prayer becomes a burden. Praying with Scripture, perhaps the daily Mass readings, can help us focus. So, too, can an inspirational book, especially one of the spiritual classics. A good choice is St. Francis de Sale's Introduction to the Devout Life, written specifically for lay people who are striving for holiness.
8. **Ask your Mother for help.** The Blessed Virgin Mary, our spiritual mother, understands our needs and offers profound comfort. One family, gathered around the bedside of their dying husband and father, found peace and healing through the recitation of the rosary. The rosary is ideal for the family since children can be taught the simple prayers at an early age. Check out instructions on *how to pray the Rosary*.
9. **Read a good story.** Children and adults alike enjoy an inspiring story, and few stories are more compelling than those of the saints. Whether it's the little way of Therese of Lisieux or the heroism of Maximilian Kolbe, their stories offer something for everyone. Consider the particular virtue that a saint demonstrates and pray for help to emulate it. Perhaps it's the humility of St. Francis of Assisi, the patience of St. Monica, or the courageous witness of St. Thomas More.
10. **Walk with a spiritual friend.** Prayer can lead to new thoughts and questions. Who better to share them with than a spiritual friend? A friend can help us to work through the concerns that inevitably arise in prayer. Good friends will hold each other accountable for their prayer life, making sure that prayer has not been neglected in the busyness of life. For married couples a spouse is often this spiritual friend, but God will also put wise and holy people in our path when we need them. They can be the answer to prayer.

Circle Me Lord by David Adam

Circle me, Lord.
Keep protection near
and danger afar.

Circle me, Lord
Keep hope within.
Keep doubt without.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near
and darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within.
Keep evil out.

AMEN.