

Catholic Parishes of the Emmaus Pastorate

St. Patrick
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PO Box 365
Edgewood, IA 52042
563-928-7200

St. Mark
203 S Locust
PO Box 365
Edgewood, IA 52042
563-928-7200

St. Mary
314 W Mission
PO Box 437
Strawberry Pt, IA 52076
563-933-6166

St. Joseph
330 1st St SW
PO Box 626
Elkader, IA 52043
563-245-2548

Sacred Heart
306 White
PO Box 135
Volga, IA 52077
563-928-7200

April 5, 2020 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Weekly Readings for Week of April 6

Monday, April 6

Rdgs: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 7

Rdgs: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71; Jn 13:21-38

Wednesday, April 8

Rdgs: Is 50:4-9; Ps 69; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday, April 9

Holy Thursday

Rdgs: Ex 12:1-14; Ps 116; 1 Cor 11:23-26;

Jn 13:1-15

Friday, April 10

Good Friday

Rdgs: Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31;

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 11

Holy Saturday

Rdgs: Gn 1:1-2:2; Ex 14:15-15:1;

Ez 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

Rdgs: Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118; Col 3:1-4 of

1 Cor 5:6-8; Jn 20:1-9



Lent in the EMMAUS PASTORATE

The Triduum and Easter Celebrations—As we prepare for Holy Week, I want to take the time to briefly summarize upcoming celebrations in the Pastorate. Although we aren't able to gather as a physical community this year, we are still able to gather as a spiritual community, celebrating the Triduum and Easter.



HOLY THURSDAY, Thursday, April 9

Saint Joseph Elkader
(without congregation)
Streamed Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
(www.vibrantcatholic.com)

GOOD FRIDAY, Friday April 10

Saint Mary Strawberry Point
(without congregation)
Streamed at 7:00 p.m.
(www.vibrantcatholic.com)

HOLY SATURDAY, Saturday, April 11

Vigil of Easter Saint Mark Edgewood
(without congregation or Baptisms/RICA)
Streamed at 8:00 p.m.
(www.vibrantcatholic.com)

EASTER SUNDAY of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 12

Saint Mark Edgewood
(without congregation)
Streamed at 10:00 a.m.
(www.vibrantcatholic.com)

*Sacred Heart and Saint Patrick cannot be used for streaming because they do not have internet access.



A special word of thanks to Lori Keppler and John Uhal for their hours of technical assistance in making these possible, especially since none of our churches are really set up for **broadcasting**.

Pray for all the Parishioners of the Emmaus Pastorate!

Salt for the Week

By the time you are reading this, Holy Week is starting—the holiest week of the year observed like none ever before! The unmistakable message of this week underscores the vision of the life of discipleship.

Holy Thursday focuses on the depths of our relationships and lives of service. Far from notoriety, power or prestige, relationships are born of both intimacy and betrayal. Ultimately the life of the disciple is one of sacrificing for the other, shown by Jesus' passion and death, and self-giving in the Eucharist.

The vision of Good Friday clarifies the pain and suffering that are central in the life of the Christian. Not unlike the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reel from not being in control and are anxious about the future. The vision of this tragic day centers on the depth of love and surrender we are called to in Christ Jesus.

The third and final day of the TRIDUUM (The “great Three Days”) is the Vigil of Easter. We are confronted with an “other-worldly” vision: death doesn't win! Jesus is living proof in the face of opposition and disbelief. And in our current fears and anxieties we need the promise of the resurrection. We need to remember that death doesn't win—no matter what the statistics and headlines say. I really pray that you are able to enter into these great and holy days. Change your schedules. Live yourselves into new ways of thinking, instead of trying to think yourselves into new ways of living. It's what Jesus calls us to. It's how He led His life. It's the vision of everyone who calls her/himself a disciple. It is 20/20 vision.



**Gospel & Homily Reflections
April 5—Palm Sunday
of the Passion of the Lord**

- ◆ How has my vision changed this Lent?
- ◆ What is Jesus' vision entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
- ◆ How can we know?
- ◆ What is my vision entering Holy Week?
- ◆ What sacrifices can I make to help my “2020 Vision”?
- ◆ What has Jesus helped me to see this Lent?

2020 Prayer for Lent

“Be thou my vision.”
O Lord, that’s easy to say,
but much more challenging to live.

“Be thou my vision.”
But at times there are things I
do not want to see:
those who look, think, pray
or live differently than I do
the issues, people, conflicts
that I would rather avoid
and the sins, inconsistencies
and failings in myself.
These are easier NOT to see.

“Be thou my vision”
Lord Jesus, you know all and see all.
You know me and still love me.
You see all my sins and blind spots
and still forgive me.
In these Lenten days,
deepen my faith to see as you see.
Enlarge my heart to love as you love.
Strengthen my hands to do
as you would have me do.

“Be thou my vision.”
May your vision be my vision.
AMEN.

Haugen, 2020

Our Sympathy and Prayers to~

- ♦ *Bernie and Melody White, Beth and Carl Petsche, Brian and Cathy White, Brad and Jill White, Bob White, Barb and Al Stegman, and Bridget Koester on the death of Bernie, Beth, Brian, Brad, Bob, Barb, and Bridget’s mother Geraldine “Jerry” White who passed away March 25 in Elkader.*
- ♦ *Alvin Billmeyer Sr. on the death of his wife, Betty, who passed away on March 25 in Dyersville.*

Easter Gratitude! At times like these when we are free from many of our normal distractions as well as opportunities, it’s easy to see our real priorities. Easter is generally a time of gratefulness and joy—oftentimes expressed in our Easter collections. Seriously pray over your offering this year. Our ministries are needed more than ever, and we have been challenged to try to connect with our communities in ways never before imagined. Your generosity is directly connected to your joy and gratitude to the blessings we share. Our mission and ministry need you and your support more than ever. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

COVID-19 Charity vs Fear—The number of sick and dying continue in the news. The predator is difficult to watch increasing our fears for ourselves and our families that they will become infected. We rely on Faith, Hope and Charity to calm our fears. Faith is the foundation of our Christian life. Hope--do you remember how the Archbishop defined hope in his Sunday homily? It is the quieting of our longings. The quieting of our fears as we long for the hectic routines of the life we had just a few weeks ago. Did we express gratitude for those days or did we complain about how busy we were? Do you see this pandemic as an opportunity to increase your spiritual life?

Charity is our focus this week. Charity (love) is the greatest of these virtues (1 Cor 13:13). When Father John helps us improve our vision to try and get to 2020, we find ways to help those not as fortunate as us. There are so many acts of charity today we cannot list them all. Here are a few:

- ♦ Father John and staff working together to communicate with us and provide many opportunities to strengthen our faith: Liturgy, Rosary and Stations of the Cross to name a few.
- ♦ Family sisters from several states saying the Rosary each night using Zoom.
- ♦ More lights appearing in the windows to remind us that Christ is our light shining in the darkness.
- ♦ Families eating together!!!
- ♦ Seamstresses sewing masks for local healthcare workers
- ♦ Parishioners volunteering to babysit for nurses unable to find childcare.
- ♦ Virtual “Happy Hour” on Saturday night with families and friends across many states using Zoom.
- ♦ Ordering take-out to support local restaurants.
- ♦ Parishioners calling those homebound and in the nursing home on weekly basis.

What would you like to add? This week you might reflect on Psalm 18: “You enlighten my darkness. With you I can withstand any hardship. In you I find my courage.”

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.