MISSION STATEMENT
To love and serve God and neighbor by the way we worship, assist those in need, and educate in the faith with fidelity to Sacred Scripture and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM:
April 1—Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7PM
April 2—Good Friday: Celebration of the Passion.... 12Noon
April 3—Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil.............. 8PM
The three days of the Triduum, when we celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, are our most sacred feasts of the year. Please keep these days holy by attendance at the liturgies.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (all at St. Joseph):
3:00PM—Sunday
6:30PM—Monday (Thanks Catholic Daughters!)

CHANGES IN COVID PROTOCOLS beginning Palm Sunday weekend: Use of altar servers, entrance and recessional processions, and 8-person choirs (masked and social distancing) are permitted. Most notably: seating in every pew. HOWEVER you cannot sit directly behind someone in the pew in front of you with whom you need to socially distance. If a whole pew is occupied, skip a pew. Sanitization of hands upon entering and the wearing of masks covering both mouth and nose are still required. Other protocols regarding printed materials, holy water, congregational singing, etc. remain in effect.

THE ST. JAMES BUILDING will reopen April 10/11 for weekend and weekday (Tuesday – Friday) 12Noon Masses. But note this change: the Saturday Mass will be at 5:30PM, with the 4:00PM Mass remaining at St. Joseph. Why? Available space is still limited and St. James would not accommodate the roughly 300 people that normally attend the 4PM Mass at this time of year. Moreover, as has been proposed in the past, as summer arrives and Mass attendance drops due to vacation / travel, the plan is to move to one Saturday evening Mass at 4:30PM at the St. Joseph building over the summer (precise weekend to be determined). We would return to a 4:00PM Mass at St. James in the Fall.

3 TRIDUUM COLLECTIONS:
Holy Thursday: For the needs of the poor. There is no envelope in your packet; if you want your donation recorded on your giving statement, please place it in an envelope with your name or envelope number on it. These funds stay in the parish to help those in financial need.

Good Friday: For the Shrines of the Holy Land. Envelopes are in your packet.

Holy Saturday / Easter Sunday: For the Special Needs of the Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese. This is taken up as a second collection along with the regular weekend collection. Envelopes are in your packets. Please be generous to these men who have served faithfully in our Diocese.

SMORGASBORD: Deadline for the Smorgasbord raffle drawing is Sunday, March 28. Drawing will take place Monday, March 29.

HELP US SPREAD COMMUNITY! TEAM CONNECT is looking for parishioners to help brainstorm parish social activities that can bring us together as we emerge from COVID shutdown over the next weeks / months. If interested (or if you have an idea), contact the parish office!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF: Loss is understood as a natural part of life, but we can still be overcome by shock and confusion. We will be offering a Support Group Session entitled “Understanding Your Grief”. It will be limited to 10 participants for 12 sessions. We have 6 spots remaining. For more information and to pre-register, call the parish office, 712-546-5223. Sessions will be from 5:15PM to 6:15PM, in Richter Hall, starting Monday, April 5.

LENTEN LUNCH & LEARN: The final Lenten Lunch and Learn will meet on Monday, March 29 from 12:15 to 12:45PM. We will watch Bishop Barron’s reflection on Jesus and the Woman at the Well. All are welcome!
St. Joseph Ellendale
23533 K22, Merrill, IA
Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Supper

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Stewardship Work

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

Vince Hoefling of our parish entered eternal life March 21, 2021.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Some Covid Protocols are being eased this weekend on Palm Sunday. (You will find them listed elsewhere in the bulletin.) Wearing of masks covering nose and mouth is still required and a condition by which our churches are open for Mass. If parishioners are unwilling to abide by this protocol, the celebration of Mass can be suspended. Nobody likes them; some don’t believe they work. Whatever your frame of mind, please wear them as an act of charity for those who are rightfully afraid of catching the virus.