



MAY 3, 2020

# Sacred Heart Parish—Clay County & St. Joseph Parish—O’Brien County

## FROM THE OFFICE OF BISHOP NICKLESS

April 28, 2020

Our Dear People:

Since the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic, Catholics in Iowa have been obliged by civil, scientific, and church authorities to sacrifice the opportunity to receive sacraments and worship in common.

With the lifting of restrictions against certain public gatherings, including religious assemblies, by Governor Kim Reynolds, members of the faithful are understandably renewed in their hope that they might safely return to church and resume some form of regular parish life. Yet the spread of the COVID-19 disease remains a real and present danger. In particular, the health and survival of the elderly and other vulnerable populations is still a grave concern. Many parishioners and priests fall within these groups.

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, we have decided it would be most prudent for now to continue to follow the liturgical restrictions we have in place, including the suspension of public Masses. Without an effective vaccine or widespread testing and contact data that justifies a change in course, we simply are not at a place where we can resume our previous prayer practices.

The suspension of the Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect statewide, and all vulnerable persons, the sick, and those who may have been exposed to the virus are asked to look after their own welfare with the support of those who care for them.

We ask parish, school and diocesan staff to continue to minister to the faithful, and the faithful to each other, in ways other than meeting in groups during this difficult time of the pandemic. We strongly encourage parishioners to visit the website and social media outlets of the parishes and schools to stay in touch as we look forward to gathering in person.

We will continue to closely monitor the statewide and respective regional situations through the weeks of May and beyond. When the time comes that we can gather in greater numbers while observing social distance, safe hygienic practices and other precautions without placing one another at serious risk, public Masses and other sacramental celebrations will be allowed to resume.

These days are not easy. We understand that many of you are frustrated with this situation; so are we. We want to celebrate Mass with our parishioners and get back to “normal.” However, we take the advice of Paul: “Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12). Take comfort in knowing that Jesus is with us and with you, our faithful.

Your Brothers in Christ,

Most Rev. Michael Jackels  
Archbishop of Dubuque

Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless  
Bishop of Sioux City

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula  
Bishop of Davenport

Most Rev. William Joensen  
Bishop of Des Moines

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ONLINE MASSES:** <https://www.spencersacredheart.com/onlinemass>

**RESOURCES:** For Parish and Diocesan updates, announcements, school news and faith support resources go to: <http://www.spencersacredheart.com/resources>

**SACRED HEART FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/SpencerSacredHeart/>

**ST. JOSEPH FACEBOOK PAGE:** <https://www.facebook.com/ObrienCoFaithFormation/>

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK** will be for: Marcella Marnach, Dottie McEntee, Pat Graff, Ted & Donna Gollobit, Fr. Bill Wingert, Thelma & Burdette Johannsen, All Parish Members.

**JOB OPENING:** Spencer Sacred Heart has an opening for a Director of Stewardship and Development. The main duty of this position is fundraising. If interested, please contact Fr. Tim at qtjhz@aol.com.

**TOGETHER AS ONE:** The diocese will have an online giving event on May 2 and 3 for those who haven’t yet given to the Together As One diocesan appeal. Please be aware that you may be contacted and consider a donation.

**CHURCH SUPPORT:** Sacred Heart \$6,849.50, Special Collections \$60.00, St. Joseph \$3,025.00.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10  
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18  
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30  
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50  
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20  
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6  
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14  
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**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY:** Available free of charge! Tuesday, May 5, 2020 from 4:00p.m.-6:00p.m. at the Spencer Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1910 10th Avenue East, Spencer. There are new protocols in place to comply with social distancing guidelines. If you have questions call the Food Bank of Iowa at 515-564-0330.



**FOODBANK**  
OF IOWA

**Mobile Pantry Program**