21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHRIST

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” - Mt 16:15-16

Sunday, August 27, 2017
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 4:30 p.m.,
Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am

Weekday Masses:
Monday through Friday, 7:30 am
(Wednesday Mass is at 8:15 am during the school year.)
Adoration: Monday, following morning mass, until 9 p.m.
Confession: Saturday, 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

New to the Parish: Welcome! Please call the office to make an appointment to register at 377-4869.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 -4 p.m. or by appointment with Fr. O’Connor.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Call the office and make an appointment with the priest.

RCIA: If you interested in finding out more about the process of becoming Catholic, contact Deacon Dennis Ternes at 377-4869.

Infant Baptism: The next baptism preparation session will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017, in the St. Joseph Room of the parish offices from 9 to 11 am. Contact Deacon Dennis Ternes at d.ternes@dbqarch.org or 377-4869 to register and learn more.

Notification for Worship Aid: Contact Dawn at 377-4869 or d.feltman@dbqarch.org.

Mass Intentions: Please stop in the office to schedule.

Prayer Chain: Contact Dawn by email at d.feltman@dbqarch.org

St. Joseph Quilting Ministry: Sessions meet every 2nd Tuesday, 1 to 3 pm, in the Church Hall. To learn more, call Lynn at 377-6166.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Compassion and knitting/crocheting combined into a prayerful ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort. Contact Sharon: 373-2810.

Men of Action: Men’s prayer and study groups Tuesdays: 7 pm in the parish office or Thursdays at 6 am in the Church Hall. Contact Deacon Dennis Ternes at 377-4869.

Women’s Connection: Support and friendship group for widows of the parish. Contact Sally W. at 373-5484.

Feed My Sheep: The Marion Food Pantry needs boxed pudding and Jello for August. Please place your offering in the basket on the altar or ask an usher to take it to the front.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue: Gather to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary by gathering to pray the rosary at the residence of Gerald and Phyllis Seidl, 7709 Princeton Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, Sunday through Friday, August 27-Sept. 1st, at 7:30 pm each evening. All are welcome.

Silent Prayer: 6:30-7 pm, Friday, in the church.

Advanced Care Planning Consultants: Learn about Church teachings on health issues and find help with documents pertaining to durable power of attorney for health care and health care decision directives. Parish contacts: Theresa Alt, 319-447-1132 or alt.theresa@yahoo.com, Jean Randolph, 319-377-0497/jmr926722@mchsi.com, and Deacon Dennis Ternes, d.ternes@dbqarch.org.

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Sunday Envelope Giving
Week of August 21, 2017—Week 8

Budgeted Sunday Envelope Needs $23,558.59

Year-to-date budget $188,468.72

Collected last weekend $22,010.50

Actual Year-to-date envelope income $176,207.24

Over/(Under) Budget ($12,261.48)

Social Concerns (5% of Donations) $1,100.53

Bricks and Mortar Envelopes $807.00

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Formation for All
"Formation for All" is an online program designed to help Catholics of all ages to learn and pray about Respect Life and Social Justice issues. The current session addresses the Principle of Solidarity as well as discussions on racial and ethnic violence. With the feasts of St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein - Aug. 9th) and St. Maximilian Kolbe (Aug. 14th), both of whom parishes in the Nazi Holocaust. Sessions are designed for all ages and various settings. To access these sessions go to dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation.

Retreat Opportunity for Lay Formation and IMPACT Alumni
Alumni of the Archdiocese of Dubuque’s Lay Formation and IMPACT programs (or similar programs in other dioceses) are invited to a retreat at American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls, Saturday, September 30 through Sunday, October 1st. Based on Joyce Rupp’s book, May I Have This Dance?, the retreat will invite participants into a closer relationship with God through a variety of prayer experiences, talks, personal reflection, and small group discussion. Cost is $125; scholarships are available. Theresa Alt at alt.theresa@yahoo.com or 319-447-1132.

Minor Miracles – is a church choir for children in 3rd through 8th grade. Weekly practices will begin on Wednesday, September 13th from 5:50-6:25pm. The first rehearsal is a parent/student informational meeting. Parents, please come with your children. We will have some paperwork for you to fill out and some general notes about practices and singing dates for the year. The choir will sing approximately every six weeks.

JAM = Jesus Alive in Music! is a music ministry group for all high school musicians. A new season begins with an informational meeting and rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 pm. We need vocalists, pianists, guitarists, instruments; we need YOU!

Jubilation Singers is a choir open to men and women ages 10-100 years old, and we are looking for new members. The choir practices weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30pm in the church and provides music ministry at Mass once a month. Practices will begin on Thursday, Sept. 14th. If you would like more information on this choir simply come to a practice!

Resurrection Choir is a choir that provides music ministry for grieving families by singing at funeral services at St. Joseph. The choir meets for practice 30 – 45 minutes prior to each funeral.

For more information on any of the above music ministry groups please contact Bonnie Bluml at b.bluml@dbqarch.org or 389-6565.

MAC is a men’s choir open to any men in the parish, young or old. Practices are on Wednesdays at 8:30pm. The choir sings once a month and practice is the two Wednesdays prior to the Mass in which they provide music ministry. For more information about MAC, contact Bill Perreault at wpperreault@gmail.com.
The Solar Eclipse—Some people went to great lengths to view the full solar eclipse on Monday. Vacations were planned around it, rooms and camp ground slots were reserved since the United States hasn’t been privy to the full eclipse in ninety-nine years. Places below its path were populated like never before, garages and shipping crates were turned into rooms with a view, fields and stadiums were populated, and a state of emergency was declared in one state to control traffic and crowds related to this astronomical event. Too bad the viewing wasn’t good for us in Iowa on Monday.

Lots of people have offered various interpretations of this event. Some people wanted to experience it, others studied it as a awe inspiring gift to science, while a few voices said that it is a sign, a portent, of the end of the world, even though eclipses have been occurring for Millennia. Some relate to it as the rebirth of the sun and a way to be refreshed and to start life over. Personally, I find it fascinating and marvel at it as yet another example of God’s creative genius.

For me, faith is a part of this marvel of the heavens. I view it, if you will pardon the pun, through the lens of St. John’s gospel. One of the themes he uses to reflect upon Jesus the Christ is the contrast between light and darkness. Christ is light in the sense that there is nothing created about him. He is the source of light because he is light in itself. The sun becomes a metaphor for the Son of God. God’s light, the Christ-light, shines brightly for all to see and to which to be drawn. The light may be eclipsed by evil, like the moon blocking the bright rays of the sun. When evil has its day and people embrace it, they and the world darken and change for the worse. Like the animals during the height of the eclipse, confusion and chaos prevails. Even if this occurs, like the sun, God doesn’t change. Christ outshines evil, and has conquered it through his cross. The eclipse of the Light will not be permanent. Even when the light is eclipsed, it is only for a while, and the bright, burning corona of the light (the sun) is not obscured or diminished. This event from the heavens on Monday was yet a sign to follow the Light and not live in the insecurity and destructiveness of darkness.

There will be lots more to say about the eclipse. What metaphor did you see in its occurrence?

News from Parish Seminarian Tyler Raymond—Hello St Joe’s!
As some of you may know since February I’ve been on the Pastoral Internship, part of the seminary formation in your second year at Mundelein. My placement was up in New Hampton, Ionia, and North Washington and I spent six months there working at the Good Shepherd Cluster in as many different capacities as I could to learn as much as I could about what it is like to live and work in a parish, and learn about myself in that environment. It has been one of the most important and formative experiences in seminary so far, and I have come out of it more ready (and hopefully a little wiser!) for priesthood! This year in seminary is a year of preparation for the priesthood as in May I will be ordained a transitional deacon, God willing! This is a big step, as I will make several public promises that will carry into priesthood and will receive the sacrament of Holy Orders (after that there’s no going back!). Please continue to pray for me. This is my vocation, God’s calling me to what he has made me for, but no vocation is found or cultivated, or lived without the entire Church, and so this is also your vocation. I am so thankful for all the prayers and support I have received from you all. Please continue to pray, and pray even more as I enter this next part of my journey.

May God bless you all!

Novena for Seminarians—Thanks to Tyler for sharing with us about his ongoing journey to the priesthood. I would like to encourage you to pray the Novena for Seminarians. A novena is prayer offered for nine consecutive days. This one, as the title states, is for those currently studying for the priesthood. I would encourage you to offer this prayer for Tyler as well as all of our seminarians. Here’s the prayer:

Lord God, remember our seminarian Tyler Raymond and those from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. You have called them to discern your will in their lives. Help them to respond courageously to their vocations. Help us to encourage and strengthen them through our prayers that they may be good priests to serve your Church in holiness. We ask this in the name of our high priest, Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Lasagna Dinner Fund Raiser
The Marion Senior Living Community is once again sponsoring a lasagna dinner at Faith Lutheran Church, 155 Boyson Rd., Marion, on Thursday, September 14th from 5 until 7:30 PM. The cost is $10.00 for adults and $5.00 for children 3-10. Lasagna catered by Zio John’s. Tickets are being sold at the entrance to the church after all Masses the weekends of Sept. 2/3 and Sept. 9/10. If you can provide a dessert, please sign up at the ticket table. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the care and ministries to our lower income seniors living at Moundview Manor, Scott Meadows and Trinity Pointe. Senior Living Community is a ministry supported by St. Joseph Church, in partnership with other Marion

Support for Divorced or Divorcing Catholics
If you are a Catholic adult who is experiencing divorce, Divorce and Beyond is an opportunity that you might like to consider. Divorce and Beyond is a facilitated, small-group Catholic conversation; a 10-week process of self-healing and support. There will be an informational meeting and registration on Saturday, September 9th, 2017 9:00-10:30 AM at St. Matthew’s Church, Cedar Rapids in the Faith Formation Room. The 10-week session will begin the following Saturday, September 16th, 9:00 -10:00 AM also at St. Matthew’s Church, Cedar Rapids. Childcare will be offered upon request. For information about the program contact Deacon Dennis Ternes at d.ternes@dbqarch.org.

*Divorce and Beyond is offered with approval and support of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Non-Catholics are welcome to attend.

Bringing back Fun Days will require some significant infrastructure upgrades, equipment replacement costs and unique start-up expenses. The electrical service for the parish grounds will need to be revamped for electrical access and lighting. There will also be expenses for building games, fencing, tables and chairs. The timeline for the largest expense of the electrical service is October 2017. We are thankful for the commitment of a group of electricians and contractors who will donate their time but the equipment and supplies will need to be purchased.

The parishioners who completed the St. Joseph Fun Days survey and expressed a desire to make a financial gift were contacted through a mailing at the end of July. We recognize that not everyone completed the survey. If you did not receive the mailing but are able to and wish to make a donation to assist with this project, please contact one of the Steering Committee members or send it to the parish office c/o Fun Days. If you did receive the mailing and haven’t made a donation yet, it isn’t too late. We can help with any special request also - just give one of us a call. We truly appreciate your commitment to Fun Days and the St. Joseph community.

Linda Randklev
319-560-5925
lrandklev@gmail.com

Joe Kruser
319.981.3363
dirtmanjk@gmail.com

Rick McAllister
319.310.0498
rick@mcallistercs.com

Jerry Brown
319.210.0266
bluesky@blueskypd.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

You’re invited to join a Small Group!

There will be various small groups of parishioners gathering throughout the school year to connect and grow in faith. Small groups consist of about 5 to 10 members and use various Catholic video or book studies to guide conversation. The groups will be starting to meet again in September, so now is the perfect time to join! There are two formats available for groups: 1.) General small groups are open to any adults of the parish and typically meet every other week. Various faith topics are discussed. For more information and to sign-up, visit www.stjoesmarion.org/small-groups; 2.) Couples Small Groups are for married couples to connect with other couples and discuss marriage-related topics. This year, they will meet once a month based on participants’ availability. For more information and to sign-up for one of these, visit www.stjoesmarion.org/couples-small-groups.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? You’re invited to join RCIA!

Those interested in becoming Catholic typically enter into the process called RCIA, which stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA is an opportunity to join others in learning about the Catholic faith to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church and prepare for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation). Inquirers are always welcome! RCIA will meet on Thursdays from 6:30–8:30 PM, starting Sept. 14th. Please contact Deacon Dennis at 377-4869 or d.ternes@dbqarch.org if you are interested in participating in RCIA.

The Prophets: Messengers of God’s Mercy

Our parish Scripture Study groups will be beginning a new series this September on the Prophets. This 10 week series will show us how the prophets of old speak to us today through the divine wisdom given them and call us to be God’s modern-day prophets. The series will be offered on Mondays from 7:00-9:00 PM beginning September 11th and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM beginning September 13th in the St. Joseph Room. The cost for materials is $25. To sign-up, please visit www.stjoesmarion.org/scripture-study or contact Deacon Dennis at d.ternes@dbqarch.org or by calling the office at 377-4869.

Pietra Fitness Classes

Join for gentle stretching and strengthening of the body combined with prayer and Christian meditation. Wednesdays, St. Joseph church hall, 2-3 pm, on a drop-in basis. Suggested offering of $5 per class.

Coffee and Conversation

Join our informal, friendly gathering of women of the parish every fourth Friday of the month for “Coffee and Conversation.” Mr. Beans meeting room, 1080 East Post Road, Marion, 9:30 – 11:00 am. No need to RSVP!

Women’s Ministry Newsletter

Register for our Women’s Ministry newsletter at www.flocknote.com/stjoesmarion/women or text: 84576 “women”.

Women's Ministry

Connecting and Enriching Women in Faith

Couples Small Groups are for married couples to connect with other couples and discuss marriage-related topics. This year, they will meet once a month based on participants’ availability. For more information and to sign-up for one of these, visit www.stjoesmarion.org/couples-small-groups.

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