

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 15

No Mass

Tuesday, March 16

2 PM Mass at Silver Pines

6 PM Mass † Deceased Members-Legion of Mary

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, March 17

St. Patrick

7:15 AM Mass † Delores Villers

Thursday, March 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

9:00 AM School Mass † Bob and Marcella Sumner

Friday, March 19

St. Joseph; Friday of Abstinence

7:15 AM Mass † John Oujiri

Saturday, March 20

4:00 Youth PM Mass † Robert Mackey

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

Kevin/Mary Jo Evers - 336 Windsor Dr NE

Mar 15-19. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of March 14, 2010

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or
Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation Celebration: We have just been informed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque that due to a schedule conflict our parish celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation has been changed from Thursday, April 15, to Wednesday, April 14. The liturgy will be held at 7 PM at St. Ludmila Church, with a reception following the Mass for the candidates and their special guests in the Social Hall. Please mark your calendars with this new date. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

“Stripping” Palm Branches is a short task for which volunteers are needed in preparation for Palm Sunday. This will take place following the *Stations of the Cross* devotion (approx 6 PM) on March 26 in the Church Social Hall.



“What is owed me” seems to be on the minds of the children Jesus describes in the Gospel this weekend. The younger son takes his expected inheritance and wastes it. The older son has no intention of sharing it either, be it with his brother or his friends. Though *all that the Father has is his*, he waits for his father to give him yet another goat!

Neither of the sons in the story grasp the relationship the father wants with them. Neither, from perceived plenty, or lack, appreciates what the father has provided. The younger son has a profound experience of the Father’s goodness when the truth of the relationship moves from *what I deserve* (to be treated like a slave) to the newly appreciated sense of son-ship. The elder son is there all along, but feeling he *deserves more* from the father prevents him from experiencing just how much he has. At the end of the story, who really possesses all that the Father has?

Do you ever stop and ask yourself “do I act as if God’s forgiveness is my birth-right, rather than God’s free gift?” How many times have we said “If I did “x” my parents or spouse, or children or siblings would never forgive me.” What if that action was unforgivable in God’s eyes? Can you imagine how you would feel if that were true? If we do a few things to move heaven from *something I deserve*, to a *gift I need* to be deeply grateful for, maybe that will transform my relationship with God the Father from something abstract, to the intimacy of a father who has only gratitude and joy for the love HE does deserve.

This Sunday is *Gaudete* Sunday. It means *rejoice* at the forgiving love so freely given by God. I hope you cultivate such rejoicing, by tending the flower of heartfelt gratitude!

Speaking of gratitude, though we have more water here than we want with flooding predicted, the kolach bake for Sister Water project will fund clean drinking water for our brothers and sisters in Honduras. In the same way, the Social Concerns Spaghetti Supper next Saturday evening will fund similar good work locally. Please express your gratitude for what we have in abundance by helping provide it to those who will recognize it as a tremendous gift!

Lastly, I certainly do not deserve, and am very grateful for all the kindnesses expressed on my birthday. The gift that means most to pastors is for Christ’s selfless love to be shared within the homes of his parish. If the Prodigal Son is a story of unappreciated family relationships, I hope this week finds you appreciating yours more! I surely will!
Fr. Tom

Financial News: As you look over the financial report, please note that though we are ahead of last year we are a bit short of our budget in envelope giving. We do appreciate that in the face of worrisome economic news in the paper this week, your expression of gratitude to God financially is not the first thing to trim in your budget!

Easter Sunday Mass Schedule is **7 AM; 9 AM; 11 AM**. Please note that last year we had almost 700 people at the 9 AM Mass even with St. Patrick's back in their church. You may want to choose another Mass! We will offer 3 Masses to spread out the crowd wanting to rejoice in Jesus' power to bring life from death. Celebrating that is so great a gift the Church still expects us to gather for Mass EVERY Sunday. Its great to see everyone on Easter. I hope to see more every Sunday! Fr. Tom

iPhone Users Offered Stations of the Cross The program employs paintings to allow users to pray the Stations of the Cross at any time and location. The prayer companion is based on "John Paul II's Biblical Way of the Cross" Ave Maria Press: [Stations of the Cross iPhone app www.avemariapress.com/viewTopic.cfm?Topic_ID=542](http://www.avemariapress.com/viewTopic.cfm?Topic_ID=542))

Rite of Christian Initiation

The Scrutiny Rite for those entering the Catholic faith will take place this weekend during the 10:30 AM Mass. The word "scrutiny" means to search. During these weeks of Lent, all of us we search out all that is not "God-like", to ask forgiveness and to seek healing.

Lent

Wear a shade of PURPLE for the 5th Sunday of Lent. Be part of the Church environment!

Palm "Braiding" will take place only after 4 PM & 10:30 AM Masses on Palm Sunday weekend in the Church Social Hall.

Holy Week Liturgies: Please sign up for a liturgical ministry for the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, as well as Easter Sunday: 7, 9 and 11 AM. Find sheets in the Gathering Space.



The Parish Community extends its sympathy and prayers to the family of Marlin Kurt who recently passed away. May he rest in peace.

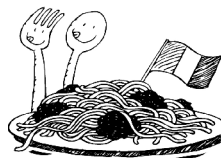


Welcome To Our Parish Family!

- Kristine Columbus and family
- Leonard and Dorothy Cooney
- Shawn and Kimberly Finn and family
- Adam Green
- Edgar Janey and family
- Matthew Kamoss
- Kimberly Laughead
- Michael and Monica Reardon and family
- Michael and Shirley Schmeiser
- Jamie Vsetecka
- Dale and Nichole Wilkinson and family

Parish Life

The **Senior Citizens Group** will meet on Wednesday, March 17, at 12 noon for potluck and fellowship. Our entertainment will be "Show and Tell." Please bring an item to share with the group. It can be something old, something valuable, something special to you, the worse present you ever received or whatever you would like to share with us. If you don't have something to share we will accept a funny story or you can sing a song.



St. Ludmila Social Concerns annual **Perfectly Pasta Dinner** will be held on Sat, March 20, serving begins at 5 PM in the Social Hall. Cost: \$7 Adults; Children 10 and under \$3.

Proceeds help the less fortunate in our community.

Save Saturday, April 24 for spring clean-up of the parish grounds. We have a lot of ground to cover and a lot of help is needed. So many of those recently confirmed tell me of a new appreciation for the role of service in their faith-relationship with Jesus. I hope to see many youth here serving the parish alongside the more senior adults who each year faithfully prepare our parish grounds for the coming summer! Fr. Tom

Coffee and Donut Sunday is March 21. Join your fellow parishioners following the 8 and 10:30 AM Masses.

Members of the Discipleship Council are hosting.



Easter plants and flowers: You are welcome to make a financial donation to the parish flower fund for the Easter season. We will purchase plants from those who advertise in our parish bulletin. Cut and return coupon with your donation to the collection basket next Sunday.

Select ONE:

I wish to donate the amount of \$ _____ in memory of _____

I wish to donate this amount to the Easter plant fund: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Holy Family and Xavier

The **LaSalle Middle School Community** cordially invites all senior citizens from all our parishes as well as our grandparents to our annual **Lancer Fest** celebration on Wed, April 7, in the LaSalle gym. Please join us for an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments! Originally this event was scheduled for Mar 19, but has been rescheduled for April 7th. Contact LaSalle at 396.7792 to make your reservation.

The **Board of Education of Holy Family School** has received word that it is the **recipient of a grant** of \$7768.81 from the Educational Development Fund of the Archdiocese of Dubuque for the purpose of providing tuition assistance to those families who can least afford the cost of a Catholic School Education. Grant awards were received from the Tuition Assistance program and/or the Minority Grant program supported by the Educational Development Fund. This Fund allocated a total of \$445,000 for these 2 programs in 2009/10 program year. The Educational Development Fund of the Archdiocese of Dubuque has also provided an additional \$60,000 in grant awards during the 2009/10 for catechists' formation resources and leadership development. The Fund was developed for the purpose of supporting the educational programs of the Archdiocese. This is the 24th year that grants have been awarded. Over 6.2 million dollars have been distributed since the Educational Development Fund was established. Grants are made possible through generous donations of contributors and parishioners throughout the Archdiocese. Consider leaving a bequest in your will to this fund that directly impacts the educational programs in the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese. For information or making a contribution toward Catholic Education, contact the Office of Educational Development, PO Box 479, Dubuque, IA 52004, phone 563.556.2580 or email:

dbqcastewdev@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us

St. Ludmila Kolach Bake

Saturday, March 27

Apricot, Cherry, Poppy Seed, Prune, Strawberry

Orders must be in by: Tuesday, March 23

Call your orders into: Darlene 390.1277;

Elaine 364.0897; Mary 533.3072

This Kolach Bake will benefit the Dubuque Franciscan (Sisters) Water projects in Tanzania and Honduras. Sign up to help or to place orders the weekends of March 13-14 and 20-21.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, March 14

Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH

9:05 AM RCIA, SH

3:30 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 5:30 PM

4:00 PM Adult Choir Practice, CH

MONDAY, March 15

5:30 PM Social Concerns, PC

7:00 PM Parish Council, PC

TUESDAY, March 16

5:30 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM

6:45 PM Discipleship Council, PC

7:00 PM Returning Catholics, PC

WEDNESDAY, March 17

8:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Mary Brecht

12:00 PM Senior Dinner, SH

No Religious Education Classes (Spring Break)

6:30 PM Divorce and Beyond (closed session), PC

THURSDAY, March 18

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC

12:45 PM Rosary over Lunch, CH

FRIDAY, March 19

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross, CH

SATURDAY, March 20

4:00 PM RCIA Retreat, PC-SH

5:00 PM Social Concerns Perfectly Pasta Dinner, SH

SUNDAY, March 21

Donut Sunday

9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate Retreat, SH

9:00 AM RCIA Retreat, CH-SH

3:30 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 5:30 PM

4:00 PM Adult Choir Practice, CH

C/CH: Church, PC: Parish Center, SC: School, SH: Social Hall

Appreciation

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week Feb 28:

Gary/Mary Stodola, Brian/Carole Palas, Mindy Kranig, Brett/Tara and Dalton/Dakota Simonsen, Alan Zaehringer

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries for the week Feb 28: Laverne Fisher and EstherBelle Steinbach.

Thank you to the volunteer secretaries who filled in while I took a vacation. Thanks to Mary Lou Roman, Jeanne Ross, EstherBelle Steinbach and Darlene Chmelicek. We appreciate your giving of your time to help in the parish office and give me a chance to take a vacation.

Thanks so much. Liz

Thank you to those groups who have led the Stations of the Cross the past Fridays of Lent: the parish Liturgy Committee, the Religious Ed. staff, & the RCIA community.

Thanks to Cedar Rapids Lumber for their extra help and generosity in renovating the Parish Center stairwells.

Have you remembered St. Ludmila in your will?

Thank you for your support!