

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, March 23

St. Toribio de Mogrovejo

No Mass

Tuesday, March 24

7:15 AM Mass † Father Al Zachar

6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, March 25

The Annunciation of Our Lord

7:15 AM Mass † Joe and Adeline Regan

Thursday, March 26

7:15 AM Mass † Alma Schaufenbuel

Friday, March 27

7:15 AM Mass † Emma Konasek

Saturday, March 28

4:00 PM Mass † Joan Whitney

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

9:00 AM Mass Personal Intention

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

John/Vivian Herder - 127 Autumn Woods Dr NW
March 22-27. Rosary prayed at 7:30 PM.

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of March 22, 2009

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10;
Jn 3:14-21

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

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

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10;
Lk 1:26-38 (Annunciation)

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

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

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

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9;
Jn 12:20-33

Please note that Tuesday, March 24 the daily Mass will be at 7:15 AM. I will be part of an Archdiocesan effort at informing young men about the priesthood that we call Operation Andrew. St. Andrew introduced his brother Peter to the Lord and leadership in the Church. Are YOU introducing eligible men and women to ministry with the Lord in service of His Church? You should be! All it takes is an encouraging word, and a bit about how the ministry of priests, sisters and brothers, and deacons has been important to your family! Fr. Tom

The Church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque

gathers to celebrate the Chrism Mass at St. Raphael Cathedral (3rd & Bluff) in Dubuque on Tuesday, April 7 at 2 PM. All are invited to celebrate as Archbishop Hanus blesses and consecrates the holy oils to be used in parishes throughout the coming year. Also at the Chrism Mass, the priests of the archdiocese renew their commitment to priestly ministry.



FROM THE PASTOR

In our Old Testament ancestors interpretation of life, being in or out of God's favor resulted in their

experiencing respectively good or bad times. Each time God allowed them to suffer the effects of their selfish choices, they seemed to be brought lower than ever and to be smaller in number. Today's first reading reports a climax: "the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy." Thus began the Babylonian captivity. Taken from their own land, they wept in a foreign land. By the time King Cyrus told them they could go back to Jerusalem, seventy years had passed. Many now were so at home in Babylon they didn't know if they were part of God's chosen people or even if they wanted to be. Jesus spoke of a similar dilemma. Not everyone who is offered eternal life will choose it, anymore than every slave in Babylon chose to be free. But all of that is in the past. What about us, now? Have we made accommodation for our practices of skipping Mass, holding grudges, deciding our sins are not sins, that we don't know what life in Christ looks like in its fullness? Will we choose the freedom of God's children this Lent? Will we choose to walk in the light? Fr. Tom

Lent calls us to works of mercy! I ask you to especially consider the continued suffering experienced by our Hispanic brothers and sisters in and around Postville, Iowa. From the day of the raid last May until now, individuals, the children and families of those in prison, and others have been dependent on charity. St. Bridget's parish there has heroically responded to their needs. However, pushing trial dates back means this situation will continue at least through this year. Archbishop Hanus is appealing to all other bishops, and to us especially in this Lenten season, to help St. Bridget parish in Postville care for these poor people.

We may feel that "they brought it on themselves" by coming here illegally. I ask you to allow the government to address the proper punishment for breaking the law. It is for Christians and fellow Catholics to respond to those who are hungry, thirsty, and seeking shelter. Reading Mt: 25: 31-46 leaves little doubt in **my** mind that this is true.

A Web site, www.postvillestbridget.org, provides more information. Donations may be made through the Web site or directly to St. Bridget Parish (P.O. Box 369, Postville, Iowa 52162). I will be directing the March Last Weekend 2nd collection to St. Bridget's for this need. You have been most generous responding to those left without by the flooding, please be similarly generous in this matter. Thank you! Fr. Tom

Spring 3-in-1 Appeal: If you forgot to bring your envelope with your financial support for any or all of the Peter's Pence, Catholic Relief Services, and Catholic Communications collections, you can bring that anytime up to April 26th. Thank you for your generosity to these efforts of our Church to care for the poor.

Appreciation

Thanks to Susan Vecerka, Bev Kotowske, and Carolyn Schulte who arranged the “ordinary” items around the Baptismal font.

Thanks to: The RCIA candidates and sponsors, the catechumens and Godparents, and team who led the *Stations of the Cross* last Friday.

Thank you to the Senior Citizens who came and enjoyed a delicious dinner and fellowship on Wednesday, the 18th. We were between St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day so we honored both. We had approximately 25 people who enjoyed the food and then participated in the Stations of the Cross that were dramatized by the 4th graders from Holy Family School. They did a fine job and made the Way of the Cross seem so real. We thank them for performing this program for us.

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week of **Mar 8:** Florence Moellers, Charity Schneekloth, Helen Cigrand, Janet/Carol Hayek, Jane Milcoff, Marilyn Schulte, Sandy/Mark Serbousek, Paula Fries. A special thanks to Linda Hoffman from St. Patrick's!

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries for the week of **Mar 8:** Jeanne Ross and Florence Moellers.

Sacrament of Baptism



Born to a new life in Christ and joined to our faith community through the water of Baptism, we welcome: **Emerson Joann Sires**, daughter of Devin and Jill Sires.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Celebration: The sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on the candidates from St. Ludmila Parish on Thursday, April 2, at a special liturgy at 7 PM. Parishioners are invited to attend this celebration.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Congratulations to Monica Green and Jeremy Rannals; Sarah Teynor and Frank Ruegsegger who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage in our Church. May God bless them as they begin to walk together the lifelong journey of Christian married life.



Sacramental Preparation

First Eucharist Retreat for families is Sunday, Mar 29 from 1PM to 3:30PM in the Social Hall. All parents/students preparing for First Eucharist are to attend. Please remember to bring your child's Eucharist book. Information: 362-8148.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, March 22

- 8:30 AM RCIA, SH
- 8:30 AM \$crip, CH
- 10:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH
- 1:00 PM Baptism Class, St. Jude
- 4:00 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC
- 4:00 PM Divorce and Beyond, PC
- 4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

MONDAY, March 23

- 6:00 PM Lenten Evening Prayer, CH

TUESDAY, March 24

- 5:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, March 25

- 8:15 AM Sunday by Sunday, SH
- 5:15 PM Early Session Religious Education, SC
- 6:45 PM Late Session Religious Education, PC-SC-SH
- 6:45 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC

THURSDAY, March 26

- 1:15 PM Legion of Mary, PC
- 6:30 PM Easter Vigil Choir Practice, CH

FRIDAY, March 27

- 9:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leaders Hal/Betty Schulze
- 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross, CH

SATURDAY, March 28

- 4:00 PM RCIA Retreat, CH-SC
- 5:00 PM \$crip, CH

SUNDAY, March 29

- 8:00 AM RCIA Retreat, SC-CH
- 8:30 AM \$crip, CH
- 10:00 AM Children's Catechumenate Retreat, SH
- 1:00 PM First Eucharist Jesus Day, SH
- 4:00 PM Sunday by Sunday, PC
- 4:00 PM Divorce and Beyond, PC
- 4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

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

Make the Mission scheduled at St. Patrick's in Fairfax part of your Lent. The mission opens Sunday evening, March 29 with a 6PM performance by Xavier High School Vocé Choir. Fr Michael Podhajsky from Saint Jude's will give us instruction on the Three Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights, at 7PM, March 29, 30 and 31. Evening retreats will last about one hour, and include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; a Gospel reading and reflection by Fr. Podhajsky; and Benediction. Let's fill the church each night and live the faith we profess! Thank you.

Linn Area Pro-Life United sponsoring, *How To Stop The Radical Abortion Agenda*, a free public event at the Commerce Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids on Monday, April 6, at 6:30 PM. Guest speaker is U.S. Representative Steve King. Congressman King is a pro-life advocate; member of the Pro-Life Caucus; and co-sponsor of many bills promoting protection of human life.

RCIA Community



SECOND SCRUTINY

RCIA: The Scrutiny Rite for those entering the Catholic faith will take place this weekend during the 9 AM Mass and March 28 during the 4 PM Mass. The word "scrutiny" means to search.

During these weeks of Lent, all of us take a closer look at our lives to search out all that is not "God-like", to ask forgiveness, to seek healing and to make changes.

Please continue to pray for our 13 adults and three children who await the Easter Sacraments.

RCIA will meet on March 22 in the Church Social Hall. Following the 4 PM Mass on March 28, they will enter into a retreat. Please pray for their growing conversion to Christ. The candidates will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 29.

Children's Catechumenate will meet March 22 at 10 AM in the multipurpose room.

Religious Education

Parent Reminder: We will be having class on Wednesday, March 25.

The early class of 3, 4, and 5 grade students and parents are to meet in the Social Hall on Wed, Mar 25 at 5:15 PM. They will share a simple soup supper and Lenten activity. For more information call: 362-8148.

Interested in being a Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechist for the 4 PM Saturday Mass? If you feel called to this ministry; contact the RE Office at 362.8148 for more info and training.



Coming In August . . .

**Crocodile Dock
Where Fearless Kids Shine
God's Light!**

WHAT? Vacation Bible School

WHO? 4 years of age through grade 5.

WHERE? St. Ludmila Church

WHEN? August 3 - 7 from 9 AM to 12 PM

Parish and Community Life

Please think about helping prepare our worship space for Easter by coming Mon, Mar 23 to oil the pews and/or Mon, Mar 30 to scrub/wax the floors. If you have any flannel sheets that have worn out the edges they make good rags for buffing the pews. Events begin 9AM.

Keep St. Monica Rummage Sale in mind while doing your spring cleaning . . . sale coming in May.



A number of parishioners have reported losing their **2000 edition of the St. Ludmila Cookbook** in last year's flood. They are unable to purchase a new one, because we are sold out. If you have an extra copy in good condition that you're willing to part with, or if your copy failed to survive the flood, contact: Paula Fries 848-4852.

Holy Family

2009-2010 Registration: We are finalizing registration for our current Holy Family families and continue to take registrations for "new" Holy Family parish families in Kindergarten, as well as in our preschool programs at St. Jude and St. Ludmila. If you have any questions about Pre-K through 2nd grade registration at St. Jude, please call Kathy at 396-7818; for Pre-K and 3rd - 4th grade registration at St. Ludmila, please call Linda at 362-1943; for 5th - 8th grade registration at LaSalle Middle School, please call Jana at 396-7792. Thank you to our parishioners for their continuing support of Catholic schools and the Holy Family School System.

Service to Others

Exciting News for Potential Homeowners: Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing conditions. They have been approved to build 20 houses each of the next 3 years, with the first Build beginning this June. They are accepting applications for possible homeowners. If you or anyone you know would like more info about the "Blitz Build" please attend an orientation session on Monday, March 23, 6:30PM • Marriott, 1200 Collins Rd NE. May register by calling Habitat 366-4485, 294-1500, or by e-mail cvhinfo@habitat.org

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: _____



Catholic Charities Disaster Recovery Update--Testimonials

Julie is raising two children with disabilities. She was widowed more than 10 ago. She lost a previous home to a tornado in 1985. And she was displaced from her tri-level Palo home due to the June 2008 flood.

“People say ‘God won’t give you more than you can handle,’” she said. “I didn’t believe that. Then your volunteers showed up. And I knew I could keep going.”

The flood destroyed the bottom floor of her home, which included the living room, laundry room, and a bedroom.

“I had moved everything up on the first floor, thinking it would be fine,” she said. But the water rose, knocking over chairs and destroying the kitchen appliances and lower cabinets.

“I never dreamed the river would get where it did,” she said.

For seven weeks, the kids stayed with friends out-of-state, and she lived with a friend in Marion. She worked day and night to restore a sense of normalcy to the home for her children.

When they moved back in, Julie used a microwave and gas grill to prepare meals, and washed dishes on the picnic table until about October. “When volunteers put in the kitchen, I was able to have a sink!”

Today, Julie’s home is close to completion, thanks to the work of volunteers.

“We wouldn’t be where we are without them,” she said. She added that the emotional support of the volunteers has also been helpful.

“My living room was built with love,” she said. “I want volunteers to know how much we appreciate them.”

Julie’s name has been changed for confidentiality reasons. Catholic Charities is working with UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) to case manage and rebuild more than 30 flood-affected homes in our community. UMCOR, with the help of volunteers from across the country, helped Julie and her children get back into her home.

Susan’s husband died three years ago, knowing that he left her very well provided for – the house she has lived in for 40 years was paid for. Then the June 2008 flood hit.

Susan is currently living in a FEMA trailer in northwest Cedar Rapids. Volunteers coordinated through UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) have been working on her home since November. She has floors and walls and is currently waiting for carpet and cabinets.

“They have been fantastic,” Susan said of the volunteers from Connecticut, the Quad Cities, and the youth group from First United Methodist Church in Marion.

One group, in particular, touched her heart. They worked on her house during the week that would have been Susan and her husband’s 47th wedding anniversary. The volunteers took up a collection, bought, and installed a microwave above her stove.

The group not only worked an entire week on her house, she said, they went the extra mile and made a special contribution to her home.

Susan’s name has been changed for confidentiality reasons. Catholic Charities is working with UMCOR to case manage and rebuild more than 30 flood-affected homes in our community. UMCOR, with the help of volunteers from across the country, are helping Susan get back into her home.

Gifts for the Spirit. We had a great response to our Prayer, Soup and Presentation on last Monday evening. This was an evening prepared for all those from our parish, that were in some way, affected by the flood. We are thankful to all that could be there and extended a prayer for all of those who couldn’t make the evening this time. Kathy Harmon and Shelby Humbles were a great hit. Each made a presentation lifting up our spirits and then gave a personal testimony that spoke to us of hope. The evening started in the worship space with evening prayer. This was new to many, but the feedback was very positive. As a sidebar, we are having evening prayer each Monday during Lent. It is a wonderful prayer, allowing us to come into a deeper reflection through prayer-song and reflection. We had a nice sign-up to have homes blessed. That service will start this weekend. For those unable to be there Monday, and would like to have your home blessed, please contact Liz at 362-7282. We are so happy for those who have recovered enough to have their homes blessed, but we know we still have work to do so that all of our parishioners will be back in their homes soon. And our work and prayers continue. The soup was wonderful and the cookies were icing on the meal. We are most thankful for all of the kitchen help. Thank you!