

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, May 18

St. John I

No Mass

#### Tuesday, May 19

2:00 PM Silver Pines Mass

6:00 PM Mass † Margaret Fitzpatrick

Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

#### Wednesday, May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena

7:15 AM Mass † Frances Daly

#### Thursday, May 21

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM School Mass † Emma Konasek

#### Friday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia

7:15 AM Mass † Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Higdon

#### Saturday, May 23

4:00 PM Mass † Shirley Drahozal

#### Sunday, May 24

Solemnity of the Ascension

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

#### **Pilgrim Statue in the home of:**

Sisters of Mercy Sacred Heart Convent

1125 Prairie Dr NE; May 17-22; Rosary at 7:30PM

**Prayer Line:** Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

#### **Readings for the Week of May 17, 2009**

- Sunday:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
- Monday:** Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26---16:4a
- Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22---18:1; Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday:** Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20
- Friday:** Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
- Next Sunday:** Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mk 16:15-20

Born to a new life in Christ and joined to our faith community through the water of Baptism, we welcome: **Mackenzie Ann Burke**, daughter of Timothy Burke and Regina Brown; **Ayla Marie Knipper**, daughter of Jeffrey and Colleen Knipper.



#### **Our Condolences**



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

**Feast of the Ascension:** in the former church calendar would have fallen on May 21. That celebration has been transferred to next Sunday. There **is no** obligation to attend Mass on Thursday. There **is** the obligation for faithful Catholics to attend on Sunday as there is for every Sunday!



### FROM THE PASTOR

**Friends of Jesus** are defined in today's Gospel. They are those who do as Jesus asks: obediently keep the commandment to love. The friendship Jesus offers and calls us to takes its form from His selfless love seen in "laying down His life **for His friends**". His friends will likewise *lay down their lives* in service and even suffering compassion. Privileged to be chosen as the beloved friends of Jesus by being given the gift and opportunity of faith, the disciples are thereby responsible for being faithful to God, service-oriented to their neighbors, and committed to putting the Kingdom before themselves.

These virtues lived out on a daily basis are the "good fruit" that Jesus the Vine expects of the branches, His friends. Based on this definition, is Jesus speaking to me when he says "friends"?

Speaking of Vines and Branches, the Gospel last week that preceded these verses had Jesus using this image for us as Church. He spoke of the Father pruning us to bear fruit. I've pruned more trees than vines but the principle is the same: you can have leaves, or you can have fruit. One needs some leaves, but too many take too much of the resources produced and you get little fruit.

As we move into summer, families tend to add more activities on weekends, more trips, tournaments, etc. Like vines need some leaves, we need some of that and they are great goods in our lives. But too many household resources of energy, time, and focus can go into them like so many leaves, and the hoped-for fruit of relationship with Christ is starved. Hard as it is to prune the pretty branches, its necessary if you want fruit that will last, rather than what will dry up and blow away in the end. Jesus chose us as friends: branches to His vine. His *friends* will choose to prune away something besides Mass and being present to your community of faith this summer!  
Fr. Tom

**1<sup>st</sup> Portion Appeal update:** In response to my letters of the past two weeks we have heard from 261 households so far. Those who plan to increase in that group are averaging \$1.80 per week for an additional \$467/wk total. I am grateful to those who responded. Please continue to return those response envelopes! As we conclude our budgeting, even though this is not a pledge but an indication, we feel more confident about our budgeting because of them. We will be cutting our debt service payments from \$12,000/month to \$5,000/month with the new fiscal year in July.

**Also, we are in serious need of Bingo volunteers!** We can't afford to hire more workers and we are turning to the same volunteers more often. Bingo income approximately covers that debt service and if we have to reduce to one Bingo per week for lack of help, that would be a significant loss to the parish! If you are not in a position to give financially as you would like, have you considered giving a 4-hour Bingo shift to the parish every couple of months? Please help! Fr. Tom

**Election Results!** The votes are in! I am pleased to inform you that for **Parish Pastoral Council**, Chet Sheetz and Lisa Guge were elected, and Victor Randolph was re-elected to serve us for three year terms in this leadership role. We are grateful as well to Patty Wiltgen and Kim Kuntz for saying yes to being on the ballot. For the **Board of Education** that guides all phases of faith formation in the parish, we elected Shannon Stokesberry, Melissa Charipar-Meyers, and Chad Levi. Our thanks to Charlene Oligmueller and Julie Steele for offering to run and for both of their dedicated service in our faith-formation efforts. Please do thank these fellow parishioners when you see them! Begin praying seriously about how you might be called by the Holy Spirit to one of these roles in 2010! Thanks to all who serve! Fr. Tom

### Appreciation

**It is with deep**, heartfelt gratitude in which we acknowledge your gift of \$3,700 to our Sister Water Project. Your sharing with us on this most important ministry will make it possible for many people to daily receive fresh, clean water. Your gift will touch and enhance a countless number of lives for many years. May God bless you with the peace of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Gratefully, Sister Nancy Schreck

**Social Concerns Committee** sends out a special thank you for all who supported our blood drive on May 12. What better way to help others in need than by giving the gift of life!

**Pro-Life with Love** would like to thank all those who helped us fill our Baby Diaper Bags. We were able to donate them to Aid to Women and Birthright and some Moms in need will be able to enjoy some really nice items.

**Thank you to** all the volunteers who helped put together the mailings the last two weeks: Chelo/Beryl Collier, Darlene Chmelicek, Elaine/Don Hensen, Virginia Homewood, Mary Bentley, Pete Kapfer, Carol Guge and Bonnie Campbell. It takes many hands to make light work of a large project. Thanks for all your help.

**Thank you to God's Housekeepers** for the week of **May 3**: Gary/Mary Stodola, Carole/Brian Palas, Brett/Tara Simonsen, Dalton/Dakota Simonsen, Mindy Kranig, Alan Zaehring, and Robert/Loretta Claes.

**Thank you parish volunteer secretaries** the week of **May 3**: Darlene Chmelicek and Carole Ryan.

## KOLACH FESTIVAL NEWS

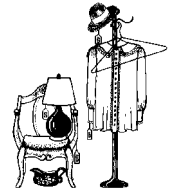
**Attention Parishioners!** Do you have any Kolach Festival Signs? If you do, please stop by the Parish Office to obtain stickers to update the festival dates on those signs.

**Kiddyland needs your toys!** Doing spring cleaning? If you have small "happy-meal" type toys or good, clean stuffed animals that you'd like to donate, give us a call.

Thanks, Jim and Lorilei Christner 848.8999

### Parish and Community Life

**St. Monica Fall Rummage Sale** • Thursday, May 21 from 9AM-4PM and Friday, May 22 from 9AM-1PM in the Social Hall • Good used items may be brought to the Social Hall on Mon, May 18 and Tues, May 19 from 6PM-8PM • Please no furniture or Christmas trees.



**Tea with Thee** preliminary meeting is Wed, May 20 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. If you would like to assist in planning and/or helping with this event, please come to this meeting or call Denise Benish at 846.2696. We have fun positions available in all areas!

**Watering the lawn** is something we could use a volunteer to monitor through the summer. Its an important part of creating an inviting parish for guests, and of keeping our lawn healthy. Would you be willing to come over a couple times per week and move hoses, set sprinklers, and regulate the water so even our lawn proclaims "we are alive at St. Ludmila" even in the summer heat? Please call Fr. Tom

### Sacramental Preparation

**The next baptism class** will be at 6:30 PM on Thurs, May 21 at St. Jude Church. Please call St. Ludmila Parish Center to register.

**Parents whose children** will be entering 2nd grade or 10th grade are required to be enrolled in formal catechesis (Religious Education or Catholic School) for a full year immediately prior to beginning the sacramental preparation programs of: Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

**Vacation Bible School Meeting** will be held on Wed, May 20 at 6:30 PM in the School Cafeteria. Anyone interested in helping are invited to attend.



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## Holy Family and Xavier

**There's still time to register** your child for next year at Holy Family School. Contact St. Jude: 396.7818 for info on openings in Pre-school, Kindergarten - Grade 2; St. Ludmila: 362.1943 for info on openings in Pre-school, Grades 3 - 4; and LaSalle: 396-7792 for info on openings in Grades 5 - 8. For info about financial assistance, call the Business Office: 390.6512 or visit the Holy Family website: [www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**For those students** interested in the Xavier Show Choir for the 09/10 school year, auditions will be Wed, May 20 from 3-6PM and Thurs, May 21 from 6-9 PM

### Xavier 2009 Graduation Activities

**The Honors Assembly**, which recognizes the many outstanding achievements of our students this past year, will be Tues, May 19 at 12:45 PM in the gymnasium. All Xavier parents, especially senior parents, are encouraged to attend.

**Baccalaureate Mass** for graduates and their parents will be Wed, May 20 at 7 PM in the theatre. An extended evening of celebrating the Class of 2009 will occur. It will include a Mass, dessert, and guest speakers.

**Graduation for the Class of 2009** is scheduled for Sun, May 24 at 2 PM in the gymnasium. Doors will open at 1 PM with reserved seating for parents of the graduates.

## Youth Ministry

**Senior High Youth Night:** All 9-12 graders from St. Ludmila and your friends are invited to our Senior High Youth Night on Wed, May 20 from 7:30-9PM in the Parish Center. We're having Discussion/Prayer, come join us for an evening of faith-sharing, food, fun, & fellowship!

**Mission: Possible 2009** - Any St. Ludmila 9<sup>th</sup> grader through college senior who is interested in participating in Mission: Possible 2009 is asked to call Bob Gardner at 298.9525 right away to receive information and registration materials. This year's mission trip to inner city St. Louis, Missouri will take place July 8-12. The cost is only \$160/person (lunch and supper not included), but space is very limited and registration will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Don't miss out on this exciting, challenging, uplifting, opportunity to share your time and talents, grow in faith, build community and have a ton of fun . . . register today to be a part of Mission: Possible 2009! The registration deadline is Monday, June 1.

## ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



### SUNDAY, May 17

Donut Sunday

4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

### MONDAY, May 18

6:00 PM Social Concerns, PC

7:00 PM Parish Council, PC

### TUESDAY, May 19

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

6:45 PM Discipleship Council, PC

### WEDNESDAY, May 20

8:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leader Mary Brecht

12:00 PM Senior Citizen Dinner, SH

6:30 PM Vacation Bible School, SC Cafeteria

6:30 PM Tea with Thee, PC

### THURSDAY, May 21

9:00 AM St. Monica Circle Rummage Sale, SH

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC

6:30 PM Baptism Class, St. Jude

### FRIDAY, May 22

9:00 AM St. Monica Circle Rummage Sale, SH

### SATURDAY, May 23

No activities/meetings scheduled

### SUNDAY, May 24

4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

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

## In Our Community

### **Flood Anniversary Mass of Life, Light, and Hope:**

Archbishop Jerome Hanus will be the presider and homilist at a Mass for the Cedar Rapids and the surrounding community at Immaculate Conception Church on Thurs, June 11 at 7 PM. This Eucharistic Celebration is to mark the First Anniversary of the 2008 Cedar Rapids area flooding. Everyone, and anyone, affected in any way by the June 2008 flooding are called to come and participate as a sign of light, life and hope in God's reaffirming Spirit.

**The Men of Action** are small groups of men that gather on a weekly basis for prayer, accountability and study. There are approximately 10 groups that meet in various parishes across the city at differing times. These groups have grown out of the CEW Community and the Catholic Men's Fellowship. Our group meets at St Wenceslaus Church on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM. We open with rosary before the Blessed Sacrament; followed by accountability for living our faith; and we study as a group guided by the book "The Catholic Church The First 2000 Years". **NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

**Weekly Mass Time Change at St Wenceslaus:** Mass will be held at 5:15PM Thursday evenings beginning May 14

**Knights of Columbus #5677 • Today** Sun, May 17 • Serving 4:30PM to 7PM • Tenderloin dinner \$5.50; Chicken dinner \$7; Shrimp dinner \$8 • Located Mt Vernon Rd and Hwy 13 • 247.2000 • Open to the Public