

MASS INTENTIONS



Monday, September 21

St. Matthew

No Mass

Tuesday, September 22

6:00 PM Mass † Charles Hromidko
Eucharistic Adoration following 6 PM Mass

Wednesday, September 23

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

7:15 AM Mass † Joe and Tillie Regan

Thursday, September 24

9:00 AM School Mass † Frances Daly

Friday, September 25

7:15 AM Mass † Iva Thibodeau

Saturday, September 26

St. Cosmas and St. Damian

4:00 PM Mass † Robert Niccolai, Sr.

Sunday, September 27

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mass St. Ludmila Parishioners

10:30 AM Mass Personal Intention

6:00 PM Reflecting Light Prayer Service

Pilgrim Statue in the home of:

Tom/Beth Gorsich - 7312 Summerland Rd NE
Sept 21 - 25. Recitation of the Rosary 7:30 PM

Prayer Line: Let us pray for your needs 390.1277

Readings for the Week of September 20, 2009

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16--4:3;
Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6;
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Pastoral Planning Task Force: The Task Force (for pastoral planning in our area) met at 7 PM at St. Jude Parish on Monday, September 14th. Each parish ranked scenarios that would serve their parish community. The scenarios are different approaches on how to place priests in each parish that would lead to releasing up to five priests in our deanery (Cedar Rapids and adjacent communities). The next step will be to put together options that will release one to two priests by July, 2010 and up to five priests in five years. The task force will review these options put together from the combination of our scenarios. When we have an option to release five priests, it will be forwarded to the Archbishop who will make the final decision.

Very Rev. John Gossman

Msgr. R. Bleich

FROM THE PASTOR At the heart of our faith is how Jesus revealed our God to be a God of compassion which means literally “the ability to suffer with.” Jesus teaches the disciples as they go along that he will be a *Messiah*, a Savior—who suffers with us to bring the power and life of God into our suffering. It IS hard to understand this when we want God to just take the suffering away!

But what were the Twelve Apostles doing as they were traveling through Galilee? They were arguing over who was the greatest. Jesus just expressed his vulnerability and they were more concerned about who is more important. Not only were they insensitive to Jesus, but they demonstrated a spirit of competitiveness.

One of the great enemies to compassion is competition. Competition comes naturally to us. From harmless fun like competing for the bragging rights to who caught the biggest fish (not mine last weekend), to serious matters that bring nations to war on each other, competition is often how we acquire what we want. Competition can bring out the best in us—honing skills and shaving costs. It can bring out our worst too! St. James warns us in the second reading how selfish ambition and jealousy can result in a competitiveness that leads to “every foul practice.”

As our nation struggles to bring a good kind of competitiveness to issues like health care reform, as our households engage in talking through “who gets what” of our time, attention, or care, we need to check to make sure our competitiveness is in the *service of compassion*. We are to be *servants* of the *least* Jesus demands; servants of those who are like the children Jesus points to: those who have a claim on our care. As St. James says “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.”

This is Catechetical Sunday! The Disciples today “do not understand what Jesus says, and are afraid to question Him.” Understanding Jesus is something that is not easy. The disciples experience today reminds us that we need to be life-long learners about our faith, if we are to be the life-long teachers that Christ calls us to be. Too often adults are afraid to talk about their faith because they are afraid they can’t answer any questions. Is it enough to avoid the questions, or would Christ **want** you to ask them, and seek understanding? I am deeply grateful to all who make time to be catechists and staff in our Religious Ed program, our Catholic School, and Adult Faith formation possible. Take advantage of what they offer! Otherwise you might miss the whole point as did the disciples today!

I add my voice to the other ways you have been informed of Doug Brummel and the celebration of our faith he brings us this Sunday and Monday evening at 6:47 pm **sharp!** For those who question “why go to Mass” and “why go to Rel Ed?” or “why do I need church at all?” I think Doug will bring some thoughtful responses for young and old to reflect on. I encourage you to go, and hope to see you there! Fr. Tom

Your help continues to be needed for our Bingo program! If you are thinking someone else is responding to my repeated appeals for participation in this fundraiser for the parish, they are not! Its time for **each of us** to start contacting Jim Nowadzky at 390-1249 to offer your help a couple of times per year. It is the truth that what we budget for Bingo income and what we budget for Church debt service is about the same. I hate to see us lose momentum at a time when low interest rates (2%) offer the opportunity to make significant strides in retiring our debt. Remember it is a smoke free environment, and you can bring your HS age children to help! Fr. Tom

WWW.FORYOURMARRIAGE.ORG

This is a wonderful website for married couples. It is updated regularly, so visit it often. It provides a variety of information on a wide range of topics for married people. Let your friends know about it.

Thank you to our volunteers who helped prepare the financial and Xavier mailings that were sent from the parish recently: Fran/Kathy Musel, Mary Bentley, Virginia Homewood, Pete Kapfer, and Don/Elaine Hensen.

Confirmation

Confirmation Rite of Commitment/Kick-off Picnic: Our new Confirmation candidates are reminded that your next **required** activity is the Rite of Commitment and Kick-off Picnic Sunday, October 4. Candidates and your sponsors are asked to be at Church by 10:00 AM for practice. The Liturgy begins at 10:30 AM. Following the Mass, candidates only will enjoy a breakfast downstairs in the Social Hall and then move to the School Gym for the rest of the Kick-off activities. Bring casual clothes to change into after Mass. The picnic ends at 1 PM; please have your ride waiting to pick you up.

Religious Education

Any family, who has not yet registered their children in the Religious Education program for this year, should do so as soon as possible. Classes begin this Wed, Sept 23 with the Early Session starting at 5:15 PM and the Late Session at 6:45 PM.

Questions? Contact Sue or Mary at 362.8148.

Effective this school year, our Confirmation program is a two-year process beginning in ninth grade.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Future Catholics: Inquiry sessions will continue on **Tuesday, September 22 and 30 at 6:30 PM** in the Parish Center. Topic: The Bible. Contact Sister Mary at: dbq029s@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us or 362-7282, ext 327.


Children's Catechumenate: The first session for school age children (who are unbaptized, or Baptized and have little religious formation) AND PARENTS is Sunday, September 27 at 9 AM in the Church Social Hall.

Contact Sister Mary: 362-7282, ext 327.

Sacramental Preparation

Parents/Guardians of children making their First Reconciliation are to meet on Wednesday, Sept 30. You may choose to attend the 5:15 PM or 6:45 PM session. This meeting is mandatory with at least one parent/guardian attending. Questions? Call 362.8148.

The next "Monthly Movie Time" will be Sunday, Sept 27. During this "Year of the Priest", join others in viewing "**Cigar Box Ray**" to discover the reason for his unusual name. He is a priest of the DBQ archdiocese who served in the missions until his death. Bring a snack to share for the viewing at 1 PM in the Church Social Hall. (Children MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult.) A discussion will follow, recalling any significant actions and statements as well as any religious themes found in the film.

 **Welcome To Our Parish Family!**
Daniel and Kelley Martin and family
Michael and Mary Ohlhauser and family
James and Allyson Wheelan

Appreciation

Kolach Bake Fundraiser! Thanks to the generous support of many parishioners the Kolach Bake Fundraiser on Sept 12 was a tremendous success. Over \$3,000 was raised from the sale of over 500 dozen kolaches. These funds will provide much-needed financial assistance to the youth from St. Ludmila Parish who will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City in November. A huge thank you to chief baker Karen Billick who contributed an enormous amount of time, experience, and enthusiasm in organizing the event and keeping the whole operation running smoothly - as well as her wonderful crew of dedicated and hard-working parishioners, parents, and youth. We are also very grateful to all those parishioners who supported our efforts by purchasing kolaches. Know that all of you are truly appreciated.

Thank you to God's Housekeepers for the week **Sept 6:** Gary/Mary Stodola, Janann Anderson, Esther Benesh, Helen Cigrand, Janet/Carol Hayek, Jane Milcoff, Marilyn Schulte, Emery/Asa Tew and Paula Fries.

Thank you to our parish volunteer secretaries for the week of **Sept 6:** Darlene Chmelicek and Carole Ryan.

Respect Life

Pope Benedict echoes Pope John Paul II in calling us to build “a civilization of love” where the rights and dignity of each person – especially those most vulnerable, the unborn and the frail elderly – are respected from conception until natural death. Sept 23 - Nov 1, we will have prayer for greater respect for human life. Join us for 40 Days for Life to save lives of adults as well as children from abortion through prayer, fasting, community outreach and a vigil at Planned Parenthood. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the following times and hosting locations: **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:** Mon 7PM Rosary for Life; **Outside Planned Parenthood:** Tues 2PM Rosary; **St. Ludmila:** Tues 6PM Mass followed by Adoration until 8:15PM Benediction; **Outside Planned Parenthood:** Wed 12PM to 1PM Rosary led by Coalition for Life; **St. Jude:** Wed 6:30PM Rosary in the Eucharistic Chapel; **St. Matthew:** Thurs Adoration 9AM - 6PM; **Xavier:** Thurs prayer 3:30PM; **Immaculate Conception:** Fri Adoration 12:30PM to 8AM Sat; **Outside Planned Parenthood:** Sat 11AM Rosary.

Join us in the March for Life commemorating the anniversary of Roe v Wade. This is an excellent event and a way to show your support for Pro-Life as well as the teaching of our Catholic Church. Leave from Cedar Rapids on Jan 19 and arrive back on Jan 23. Approximate cost: \$365 Deadline: Oct 1. Contact Tony May for more info: 373.7036 or tsammay@msn.com

National LIFE CHAIN Sunday: At 3 weeks into gestation, a baby's heart is already beating. Just 3 weeks! The brain and spinal cord also appear at 3 weeks. Also around 3 weeks, the mother misses her first menstrual period, and thus she begins to realize that a new life is growing in her womb. Will you help defend this little one?

Where: 243 Collins Rd NE at Lindale Dr

When: 1:45 PM to 3 PM on October 4

Xavier Foundation Parish Appeal

Please plan to support the Xavier Foundation Annual Parish Appeal next weekend. The Foundation is a vital source of income for Xavier, contributing approximately 26% of the high school budget. Parishioner prayers and financial support is needed and appreciated. Please stop after Mass and sign your pledge card. If you are not able to sign your pledge card after Mass, a volunteer will contact you by phone.

Holy Family and Xavier

Friendship: The Sonshine of Life... is the theme of the Sonshine Retreat sponsored by LaSalle Middle School on Sept 19-20 at Camp Wapsie near Coggon. This special overnight retreat experience is designed for our 8th grade students who want: to grow in friendship with interesting, exciting people; to develop a sense of community; to share ideas, feelings, beliefs, and gifts with others; to celebrate through meaningful experiences of prayer, reconciliation, and Eucharist; to relax and have fun in a beautiful nature setting. Pray for the participants, and the young adults, college students and Xavier High School students who will guide them on their journey.

Xavier will be celebrating its Homecoming throughout the week of Sept 21-25. Come out and enjoy these Homecoming Activities: **Sept 21:** Mass 9:50 AM in the Gymnasium; **Sept 24:** Pep Assembly, King/Queen Coronation, Bonfire 7:30 PM; **Sept 25:** Football Game vs. Waterloo West: Sophomore - 5 PM; Varsity - 7:30 PM.

Xavier Girls Basketball is sponsoring **Boosketball** • Grades 1-3 Skills Clinic • Oct 31 in the Xavier Gymnasium Time: 9 AM -11:30 AM • Halloween Hoops Skills, Fun and Treats while still Playin' Ball • Cost: \$30 (includes tee shirt) E-mail pbarta@cr-cath.pvt.k12.ia.us for details.

Youth Ministry

Middle School Youth Rally: “Faith Trek” is the theme for this year’s Middle School Youth Rally which will be held on Sat, Oct 3, from 3:30-9:30 PM at St. Joseph School in Marion. Our 14th annual rally - which is being sponsored by C.R.A.Y.M. (Cedar Rapids Area Youth Ministers) features Christian musician Scott Anthony and will also include icebreaker games, supper, Mass and a dance. Cost is \$20/person (advance registration only!) and all 6-12 graders from St. Ludmila parish and your friends are welcome. The registration deadline is Fri, Sept 25, and your completed registration form and fee (make check payable to C.R.A.Y.M.) must be mailed to St. Matthew Youth Ministry (find address on form) by that date. All LaSalle Middle School and Religious Education students from our parish received registration forms last week, but extra forms are available from the Religious Education Office in the school. Don’t miss out on the faith-sharing, food, fun and fellowship . . . we’ll see you on Oct 3! **P.S. PARENTS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE AS CHAPERONS FOR THIS BIG EVENT.** If interested in volunteering please contact Bob Gardner at 298.9525.

Tour of the Church

Have you wondered about WHO is in the stained glass windows at St Ludmila’s church? Answers to this and other questions will be available on Thursday, Oct 29 beginning at 6:30 PM.



Parish and Community Happenings

Knights of Columbus #5677 • today Sunday, Sept 20 • Serving 4:30 PM to 7 PM • Tenderloin dinner \$5.50; Chicken dinner \$7; Shrimp dinner \$8 • Located Mt Vernon Rd and Hwy 13 • 247.2000 • Open to the Public

Mount Mercy College will host special guest speaker Marie Dennis for its annual Mercy Day of service on Thursday, Sept 24 at 7 PM. in the Chapel of Mercy, Busse Center, located on Mount Mercy's campus. The address, "Stories of Service – Touching Lives Globally and at Home," is free and open to the public. Dennis has been a leader in global efforts to eradicate poverty through the cancellation of debt and the promotion of trade agreements.

St. Wenceslaus, Cedar Rapids Czech Goulash Day: Sunday, Sept 27 ■ 10:30 AM Czech Folk Mass at St. Wenceslaus Church ■ Games-Food-Music 11 AM to 5 PM.

American Cancer Society - I Can Cope: An educational program for cancer patients, their families & friends • Hospice & Palliative Care • Thurs, Oct 1 from 5:30–7:30 PM • Iowa Blood & Cancer Care, 855 A Ave NE • Open to everyone and is free of charge • Pre-register 365.5242.

The Marriage Garden is a six-week program that helps couples learn ways to preserve their relationship, enhance teamwork skills and build long-lasting resiliency into their marriages. The program is a partnership between Prairiewoods and IA State University Extension. The program will be held Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Nov 5 from 6-8PM at Prairiewoods, 120 E Boyson Rd, Hiawatha. Cost: \$55/person or \$100/couple. A light meal included. Prairiewoods 395.6700

What is a (CEW) Christian Experience Weekend? CEW is a renewal weekend designed to enable you to more deeply 'experience' yourself as well as your relationship with God & the Christian community. Women's weekend October 2-4 at LaSalle; Men's weekend October 16-18 at LaSalle; Cost: \$35. Registration forms are on the mobile bulletin board in the Gathering Space.



Recipes Wanted: Men and women we want your favorite recipes for the new St. Ludmila Cookbook. There is a box in the Gathering Space to place your recipe. There are extra forms available there too. You can also e-mail your recipes to: stludscookbook@gmail.com Questions? Sara: 378.8321 or Ann: 396.9154.

ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



SUNDAY, September 20

Catechetical Sunday
Donut Sunday, Host: St. Monica Circle
1:00 PM Baptism Class, SH
4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM
6:47 PM "LIGHTEN UP!" Parish Mission, CH

MONDAY, September 21

6:00 PM Social Concerns, PC
6:47 PM "LIGHTEN UP!" Parish Mission, CH

TUESDAY, September 22

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

WEDNESDAY, September 23

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

THURSDAY, September 24

10:00 AM Legion of Mary, PC

FRIDAY, September 25

9:00 AM Church Cleaning, Leaders Hal and Betty Schulze

SATURDAY, September 26

Xavier Appeal

SUNDAY, September 27

Xavier Appeal, CH
9:00 AM Children's Catechumenate, SH
1:00 PM Monthly Movie "Cigar Box Ray", SH
4:00 PM Bingo (school doors open) games begin 6 PM

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

Save this date . . . Sunday, October 4 to enjoy breakfast with your fellow parishioners in our Church Social Hall. Members of our Pro-Life with Love Group will be our hosts. Serving commences following the 8 AM Mass and concludes shortly after 12 noon. You will enjoy eating cinnamon rolls, eggs, sausage, fruit cocktail, orange juice, and coffee. Cost for this delicious breakfast is \$5.00 Adults and children under 12 \$2.50.

St. Ludmila Fall Bazaar - Saturday, Nov 14 and Sunday, Nov 15. Call now for a table. Volunteer to help - no prior experience necessary! Parishioners consider donating craft items for our St. Ludmila booth. Call Karen at 364.3135.



Reflecting Light

A special Prayer Service will be held for all those from our parish who were, in anyway, impacted by the 2008 Flood; their Parish Partners, all who volunteered time, prayers, financial aid and a helping hand.

A Prayer Service, Reflecting Light, and meal will be held on Sunday evening, September 27, beginning at 6 PM in the Church. RSVP by September 22: 365.3259 or e-mail: deaconmanning@aol.com