2926 Beaver Ave DSM IA 50310 515.255.3162 www.holytrinitydm.org

May 10 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Faith Service Respect



ALL PUBLIC MASSES CANCELED - WATCH ONLINE HERE



FROM FATHER MARK MAY 10 2020

GREETINGS--As we know, Governor Renyolds has relaxed a number of restrictions, in most of the state. She has also lifted restrictions on religious gatherings statewide. However, Bishop Joensen, along with the other three bishops of Iowa, have decided that is not yet safe for this type of reopening in our parishes. So, we will continue for the time being the restrictions currently in place. Online Masses will continue. Plans are being formulated for the time when we will be able to safely resume public liturgies. I will keep the parish updated on these developments.

I know this is disappointing for many. However, I have also heard from parishioners that they appreciate the Bishop's concern and understand the decision. I ask for your continued patience as we begin to make plans for a regathering when it is safe to do so.

I know that in our present situation many are concerned that the sacraments are not being celebrated. But, the reality is that the Sacraments are being celebrated. As we know, it is not as we would normally celebrate, but the Sacraments are being administered and celebrated.

Confession is still available. Some parishes have scheduled times, others are by appointment. Here at Holy Trinity, you can contact me for the Sacrament, and we will work out a day and time.

With regard to weddings and funerals: Unfortunately, we have had several funerals here at Holy Trinity during this difficult time. They have not looked like they normally would, some have been livestreamed...but they are happening. We still have weddings on the schedule. Those that happen while we are under the current restrictions, will need to abide by those restrictions, but they can still happen and are currently scheduled.

Anointing of the sick also continues to be administered. Again, if there is a need here at Holy Trinity, you can contact me and we will get it taken care of.

As we know, First Communion did not happen as scheduled. It will happen, we just don't know when yet. For our Confirmation candidates, our parish Confirmation celebration is still scheduled for October. We hope this will happen as scheduled, but we cannot be completely certain at this time. For now, it remains scheduled for October. For our RCIA candidates, we are currently scheduled to welcome them into our church on the vigil of Pentecost. We hope this will work out. But, if it doesn't, we will adjust. Our candidates will be welcomed into our Church. Again, thanks to all for your patience and understanding.

Most importantly, the celebration of the Eucharist does continue each day. The celebration continues in our parish, in our state, in our nation, and around the world. **Mass has not gone away**. It must now be celebrated virtually until such time as we can safely meet again. I know this is not ideal and it is not what we want. But, at present, it is what we have. I encourage all to try to find some blessing in our present time. Perhaps we can give thanks that we have the technology to offer so many things virtually; that we can remain connected to one another, to our parish and to our faith even when we are physically separated.

Here is the latest update from the diocese on the annual appeal. Our most recent totals are that we have 217 pledges for a total of \$82,939 in gifts and outstanding pledges. Our assessment this year is \$108,155. Thanks again for your very generous support thus far! We are getting there! Please consider what you are able to do to support this year's appeal. If we do not make our assessment, the difference would have to come out of our operating funds. We would very much like to avoid this. Again, thank you for your generous support!

Thanks again to all those who continue your regular tithing support of the Parish. Your generosity is inspiring and deeply appreciated! We do continue to need your support.

Take care and God bless us all and God bless Holy Trinity.

Fr. Mark

PLEASE DONATE ONLINE AT https://holytrinitydm.org/donate



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH MAY 10 2020



Q & A WITH FATHER MARK WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM Please join Father Mark in a Facebook LIVE meeting – he will answer your questions about our parish, Church, faith, religion and more. Our <u>FACEBOOK</u> page is public – no account required. Please email your questions to <u>fmneal@holytrinitydm.org</u> or the <u>parishoffice@holytrinitydm.org</u>

CORONAVIRUS: FROM THE DIOCESE AND BISHOP JOENSON

- ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS CLOSED
- All PUBLIC Masses in the Diocese of Des Moines are cancelled until further notice. The CDC is asking for no gatherings of more than 10 people.
- COVID-19: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Here's some basic information from <u>MercyOne</u> about what the coronavirus is and precautionary measures to take.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Prayer for the Sick (English & Spanish)
Prayer for Spiritual Communion (English & Spanish)
Liturgy of the Hours (USCCB)
Daily Reflection Video

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS! **To advertise contact Andy Negrete** 255-3162 ext. 129 or andyn@holytrinitydm.org

HELP FOR HT PARISHIONERS

We are so appreciative to all those volunteers who have reached out to help their fellow parishioners in this uncertain time with the COVID-19 Virus. We have been so touched by your generosity!

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE? Please call the Parish Office at 255-3162 x124 or email parishoffice@holytrinitydm.org if you are an individual that could use assistance.

- We have volunteers ready to make deliveries of groceries or essentials for parishioners who should not be exposed to this virus at the stores.
- We also have volunteers available to pray with parishioners or just chat on the phone or by Facetime...whichever you prefer. This is a way for our community to catch up and stay close
- If you are a parishioner that would like a pen pal, we have families that are looking to connect. So many wonderful stories have been shared.

You can always go to our website https://holytrinitydm.org/coronavirus-updates for more information. Again, thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mav 10	For the	Parish &	Sheila	Goode
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May 11 For those who have lost their lives to Coronavirus

May 12 Ruth & Jim Wright

May 13 Fran Armstrong

May 14 Maxine Mann

May 15 Bonnie Fitzgerald

May 16 Robert Riordan

May 17 For the Parish & For a Special Intention

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED...



William Frasier, Parishioner and Father of Kathy Turner of our Parish

And, For those who have lost their lives to Coronavirus

FINANCIAL BLESSINGS ENDING WEEK OF APR 26 2020

Budget - July 2019 - June 2020\$1,008,000YTD Overage (Deficit)\$11,313YTD Budget through Apr 26\$845,039Tithing for the week ending Apr 26\$30,971YTD Actual Tithing through Apr 26\$856,352Number of Donations Received306



NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE MAY 10 2020

MAKING MASS AT HOME MORE MEANINGFUL

Attending Mass virtually these days can be challenging. Here are some ways from the Diocese recommended bustedhalo.com to keep Sunday Holy:

- 1. Stick to the Sunday routine. Being home every single day of the week can make the days blend together. For those quarantined at home, every day in our pajamas feels like a day of rest, so we must do our best to keep Sunday holy or "set apart." To make Sunday special, we make sure to put on something respectable for Mass. Our clothing has the power to transform us not only externally but internally. Even when we have nowhere to go, it actually feels good to just go through the motion of dressing up and putting on our Sunday best.
- 2. Celebrate the day. On a normal Sunday, our family often goes out to lunch after Mass. In this new normal, we try to have a nice meal together right after Mass. We prepare some delicacies to make the day extra special and celebratory. We keep our nice clothes on, move to the dining room, and extend the celebration of the day as a family.
- 3. Stream familiar faces. Try to watch your regular parish's Mass. It's good to see the faces and hear the voices of our parish priests. It brings a sense of familiarity and normalcy. We also try to connect with our fellow parishioners online to get a little sense of community. There is also comfort in knowing that my local parish priests are doing well and coping just fine. Hearing their prayer intentions for the local community and the parish is uplifting.
- 4. Create a sacred space. If your living room is like ours, then you'll likely find yourself having to move some toys out of the way when it's time to kneel. After the first week of Mass at home, we started asking our kids to help prepare the living room to become a sanctuary. That helps them get involved in preparing for the Holy Spirit to come into our humble abode. It is an excellent teaching opportunity to help them understand the importance of preparing not just the physical space but also the spiritual space for the holiness of the Mass.

- 5. Prepare the readings. We download the readings ahead of time onto our tablet. If it's more comfortable and if you have a printer, have the readings printed on paper. This helps us get into an attentive mindset.
- 6. Sit, stand, kneel, bow. Normally, our couch is a place for laziness and slouching. It takes extra effort in attention and mindfulness to avoid slouching or putting our feet up. We try to keep our posture similar to how we sit in the church pews. We stand when it's time to stand, kneel when it's time to kneel, and bow when it's time to bow. The same responses, postures, and gestures that we would normally do at Mass in church, we perform in our living room.
- 7. Time for review. In this quarantined set-up where there is no need to rush out to be somewhere after Mass, we now have the time and the opportunity to personally teach our kids about the Mass readings. After Mass, we ask them to tell us what they got out of the readings. Catechism classes may have been put on pause, but faith education must continue. And what an opportune blessing it is for both the kids and the parents alike to really grow in faith as a family.

FAITH IN ACTION

Being quarantined presents an opportunity for our family to be more mindful, creative, and intentional with the practice of our faith. With the church doors closed, we open the windows of our homes to welcome God's blessings because God will continue to knock. This trying period of this pandemic is a defining moment for the Catholic faithful and how we respond can make a big difference. The efforts that we put into transforming our home into a house of worship will send a powerful lesson to our kids

Words can never be enough to convey how much the

Sacrament of the Mass means to us and here is one rare opportunity for our children to receive that message firsthand, loud and clear. As a parent, I hope my kids will witness how much we cherish and value our faith and how it gives us strength, deliverance, and joy in times of distress. Such a profound opportunity to hand down our faith!



NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL MAY 10 2020

KEEPING THE FAITH

May Blog | Keeping the Faith | By Dr. Anne Franklin

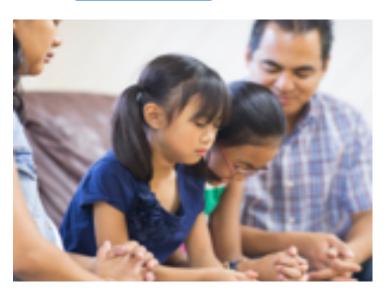
We're going through some strange times, aren't we? COVID times or not, the road of life is full of peaks and valleys. For some, this time together to slow down as a family is a blessing. For others, the challenges of the financial unknown, sharing bandwidth, working from home, or not working at all can become overwhelming. During these uncertain times, our faith is an anchor and guiding light of hope.

We all chose to give our children the gift of a Catholic education because we want faith to be at the forefront of our children's lives. Distance learning reminds us of the importance of our role as parents as the first teachers of the faith for our children. The daily faith routines we model today plant seeds that will lay the roots for our children's faith life long term. These traditions are more important now than ever! Below are some easy ways to build faith into our daily habits not only while staying at home but for a lifetime.

- **1. Prioritize mass.** Holy Trinity streams Mass daily and Sunday Mass starting on Saturday at 4:30PM on our <u>website here</u>. The divine liturgy is one of the most important things we do as Catholics. <u>Here are some tips on how to make mass as meaningful as possible when participating digitally.</u>
- 2. Pray daily as a family. Just the simple act of saying grace together before meals brings the family together and anchors everyone in prayer. This is also a great place to start if prayer is new for your family. These seemingly small acts anchor our family life in gratitude to God. Here are some ways to make mealtime prayer more meaningful.
- **3. Give intentions.** Our students offer up intentions daily during class prayer. Taking time to offer up intentions as a family can be impactful for many reasons. It encourages students to think outside their own wants and needs and more toward those of others, building empathy and compassion. As a parent, listening to your child's intentions also shows you what is on their minds and can give you an important glimpse into their current thoughts and even fears during these difficult times.

- **4. Model personal prayer.** Whether reading a daily devotional (*Jesus Calling* is my personal favorite), praying the rosary on your daily walk, taking a few minutes to start your day with a <u>3 minute retreat</u>, seeing us model these activities leaves a lasting impression on our children and increases the likelihood they, too, will engage. Invite them to join you!
- **5. Make faith fun.** We don't want students to see their faith as a chore or obligation; we want students to see celebrating God's goodness as a highlight of their day. Check our Father Mark's bible stories on our Facebook page, pick a saint of the day to learn about together, or find some <u>coloring pages!</u> You can find some great ready to go resources at <u>CatholicMom.com</u> and <u>TheReligionTeacher.com</u>.

We appreciate your partnership as we build disciples of Christ in our children. Want more ideas of how to infuse faith into your family's daily life? Check out additional resources here from Loyola Press.





OUR FACEBOOK PAGE IS PUBLIC -- NO ACCOUNT REQUIRED



DIOCESAN | COMMUNITY & MORE MAY 10 2020



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE



St. Vincent DePaul donation of sack dinners

CFUM volunteers getting ready to distribute donations



FOOD PANTRIES ARE OPEN BUT NEED YOUR HELP!!

We have established a protocol allowing us to continue providing pantry essentials to those in need. Both pantries are open for business by appointment only. Pantry appointments and pickup times are Monday-Friday, 9AM – 5PM As needs run high, supplies run low. We would like to ask that as a friend of SVdP that you participate in our **#foodpantrychallenge**.

Donations can be made at www.svdpdsm.org.

If you know someone in need, appointments can be scheduled by calling the numbers below: 1426 6th Avenue: 515-282-8327 Ext. 14 520 SW Army Post Road: 515-282-8328 Ext. 30 It is because of friends like you that we have been able to continue serving clients during this stressful time, and we are grateful for your continued support.

HOLY TRINITY ST VINCENT DEPAUL GROUP MAKING A DIFFERENCE Our HT St. Vincent DePaul volunteers packaged sack dinners for the children and families in need at CFUM(Children & Family Urban Movement-https://cfum.org/ located at) In conjunction with neighborhood volunteers and supper club groups, CFUM is coordinating to go meals and distributing them from 4:45 – 5:30 pm Monday – Friday. Our St. Vincent DePaul group's meals were distributed on Wednesday, April 22nd making a difference for many hungry children & families. Thank you St. Vincent DePaul for all you've done to support the needy in our community now and throughout the year.





BRING THE GOSPEL HOME MAY 10 2020

The Mystical Rose

Blessed Mother Mary,
throughout centuries of devotion,
roses have been your symbol.
They recall for us
the blossom of your love,
the freshness of your life,
and your role in bringing
newness to all things.
Help us when we see,
smell and enjoy the
gentle softness of a rose,
to understand how close
you are to us.
Amen

READING I: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

PSALM: 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

READING II: 1 Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

Question for Children: What are some ways that you can act like Jesus would if he were in your situation?

Question for Youth: Jesus is "the way, the truth, the life" and he asks us to do as he does. How do you try to follow Jesus' way?

Question for Adults: How are the promises of this Gospel passage made real in your own life? How do you experience yourself doing greater works than even Jesus did?

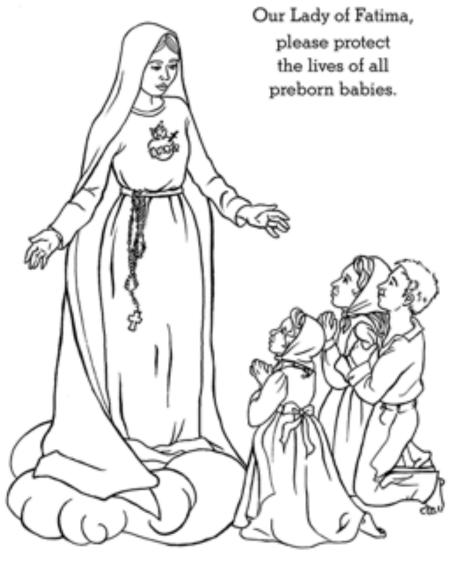
SAINT OF THE WEEK

Francisco and Jacinta, Children

One has a tendency to think that, short of martyrdom, saints lived relatively long lives devoted to prayer and good works. Francisco and Jacinta Marto, ages 11 and 10 at their deaths, demonstrate to us that even young children – maybe especially young children – are very close to God and can also become saints. These children lived in a small village near Fatima, Portugal. Like other children, they were sent out into the fields to shepherd the flocks. Beginning on May 13, 1917, the children were visited several times by the Blessed Virgin Mary near Fatima. During these visits, Our Lady also exhorted them to pray for sinners and revealed three "secrets" to them. Today, Fatima is a holy shrine visited by many pilgrims. We are all "our brother's keepers" and our prayers and sacrifices are vital to the salvation of souls. In a world that seems to move further away from God with each passing year, we must redouble our efforts to bring about the conversion of sinners.

Francisco and Jacinta's message today: We are all "our brother's keepers" and our prayers and sacrifices are vital to the salvation of souls. In a world that seems to move further away from God with each passing year, we must redouble our efforts to bring about the conversion of sinners.

Do you say the Rosary often? Do you carry the Word of God with you in your daily life by your words and actions?





NOTES ON THE MASS MAY 10 2020

SPIRITUALITY OF THE READINGS

Preparing to Go?

The Sunday's <u>Gospel</u> has a touching story. It features Jesus' preparation of his disciples for his suffering and death! What he says is in many ways too profound, too high minded for the disciples to understand. But let's take a look anyway. It helps to see that the structure of the reading is fairly simple.

First Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Obviously they are upset, so it is a kindly directive. And second, he elaborates the reason they should not be upset, which is the essence.

His initiating statement is this: "You have faith in God; have faith also in me."

Notice the two levels of meaning: *The first* is practical: trust me, I am your friend. But *the second* requires much more consideration: I am so much at one with God that you can believe in me in exactly the way you believe in God! Jesus then uses one of his parable-like stories to clarify. The Father has a house somewhere with a whole lot of rooms in it. Jesus has decided to go there and prepare a spot for each of the disciples. He will come back and take them to that place so that they and Jesus will all be together again. This is a supremely consoling image, isn't it?

But not to the disciples, who at this point are not ready to do without Jesus even for a few moments. Remember when Jesus had asked them if they were going to leave him, <u>John 6:60</u> and Peter had said, "Where would we go—you have the words of eternal life"? Now Jesus himself is the one leaving.

Again, two levels of meaning: *First*, where are you going? *Second*, you are so close to God that your death itself will be a going home to God. Help!

So he tries another explanation, extending the image. He says, "Where I am going you know the way."

Ah, at last a practical statement that even doubting Thomas can deal with. Thomas says, "Sure, we could find a map and locate a path and follow it. But look, we can't even know where you are going! Be practical"!

Jesus' statement was a play on words, not "practical" in Thomas' way. Jesus himself is "the way (the truth and the life)." This meaning is much deeper. The way to the Father is not a literal roadway but rather the person of Jesus! Philip barks out, "Look, Master, just show us the Father and we will be satisfied"! Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

The apostles, practical and broken-hearted, hear mainly the *pragmatic level*. But Jesus coaches them on to the *spiritual level*.

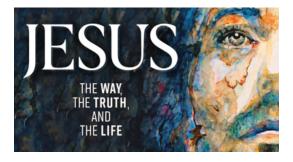
And they are left as "ships passing in the night." Don't you wish he could have said it more plainly, more simply?

Ok, but we are listening to the deepest mystery of the whole Christian faith—the way God can become a complete human being without ceasing to be God or human.

Jesus did his best to show it to the disciples in Sunday's <u>Gospel</u>, with images, story, and description. Maybe it is now up to us to cling to him in prayer and contemplative listening, so that we too can move toward the answer.

Even when we are not allowed to go to Mass!

John Foley, SJ





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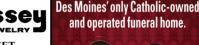
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