



St. Joseph's Newsletter – May 2008

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Dear St. Joseph Parishioners:

The month of May is a time of transition. It is the month that many people celebrate graduations from high school and college. May is the month that we begin to think of the seasons transitioning from spring to summer. This year, the Church transitions from the Easter Season to Ordinary Time during the month of May. Each Sunday in the month of May is a special feast day or solemnity of the Church. For this newsletter article, I thought I would simply reflect a bit on each of these feast days - what they are, why we celebrate them and why they are important to us as a church community.

On **May 4**, the Church will celebrate the solemnity of *the Ascension of the Lord*. Pope Benedict XVI writes, “The meaning of Christ’s Ascension expresses our belief that in Christ the humanity that we all share has entered into the inner life of God in a new and unheard-of way. It means that we have found an everlasting place with God.” It would be a mistake to interpret the Ascension as “the temporary absence of Christ from the world.” Rather, we go to heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into the life he offers us. Heaven is bound up in the person of Jesus and as he ascends to the glory of heaven we are invited go with him, to share in that life.

On **May 11**, the Church will celebrate the great feast of *Pentecost*. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Christ’s paschal mystery was brought to its completion. The Holy Trinity was fully revealed, and the Church was made manifest to the world. St. Thomas Aquinas says that the Holy Spirit interiorly perfects our spirit, communicating a new dynamism so that it refrains from evil for love. With the Holy Spirit within us, “it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become entirely other-worldly in outlook and for those who lack courage to become people of great courage” (St. Cyril of Alexandria).

On **May 18**, the Church will celebrate the solemnity of *The Most Holy Trinity*. The Catechism teaches that “by sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed God’s innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and God has destined us to share in that exchange” (#221). “The complete Trinity dwells in us” (R.P. Philippon). By worshipping the Trinity, we realize the full truth of ourselves. “In communion of grace with the Trinity, humanity’s ‘living area’ is broadened and raised up to the supernatural level of divine life. We live in God and by God” (John Paul II).

On **May 25**, the church celebrates the feast of *The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*. Pope John Paul II reminded us that in commemorating the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the Church “does not only celebrate the Eucharist but solemnly bears it in procession, publicly proclaiming that the sacrifice of Christ is for the salvation of the whole world.” We are called to rejoice then in this post-Easter expression of our Eucharistic faith, devotion and affection in order to allow it to deepen our attachment to the unique and unending Event that transforms our lives. The Sequence for *Corpus Christi* invites us to call out: “Jesus, of your love befriend us,/ You refresh us, you defend us,/ Your eternal goodness send us/ In the land of life to see.”

In this month of May, a month of change and transition, I pray that each of us may allow these special feast days of the Church to be a time of growth, blessing and transformation in our lives as people of faith.

Peace, Fr. Chris

St. Joseph Catholic Church
607 W. Green St.
Winterset, IA 50273

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Reflection Questions

Reflection Questions (May 2008)

May 4, 2008 - *The Ascension of the Lord* (Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20) How will you "go, baptize and teach" today, in your particular situation, with and for the people God has placed in your life? Are you ready and willing to be an apostle today?

May 11, 2008 - *Pentecost Sunday* (Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23) The Latin ending of the Mass was, "*Ite, missa est.*" "Go, you are sent." *Mission* and *Mass* have the same Latin root of *missa*. Now we say, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Loving and serving is what mission, being sent by Jesus, is all about. How can you keep this sense of mission alive in you each day?

May 18, 2008 - *The Most Holy Trinity* (Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18) Fill in your own name in each of the blank spaces: God so loved _____ that he gave his only Son, that _____, who believes in him, may have eternal life. God did not send the Son to _____ to condemn him/her, but that _____ might be saved through him. What is your response to this message? How can you share it with others?

May 25, 2008 - *The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ* (Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a, 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17, John 6:51-58) We renew our union with God and receive more life and more healing every time we receive the Eucharist. Where do you need the gift of eternal life to touch you more deeply today? What parts of your life need healing? What can you do to renew your union with God during the coming week?

Congratulations to the Class of 2008!

- Ashley Armstrong
- Josh Barnett
- Daniel Cahalan
- Michael Eivins
- Connor Green
- Jon Kordick
- Lindsey Moss
- Haleigh Navin
- Kaitlyn Thompson
- Rachael Riis

We as a parish pray for you to continue your journey in life and in faith. You will be missed!

Graduate's Prayer

Father, I have knowledge. So I pray you'll show me now how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a little better place and make life, with its problems, a bit easier to face.

Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days, and show me how to serve Thee in the most effective ways so all my education, my knowledge and my skill may find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will. And may I ever be aware in everything I do that knowledge comes from learning and wisdom comes from You.

- Helen Steiner Rice



“Holy Crop!” - Scrapbook Event a Success!

Birthdays

- 1 – Juanita Beeler, Shelby Duncan, Anthony Klein
- 3 – Ainsley Hughes, Joe Pastorino, Shirley Roach, Tammi Schmid
- 4 – Bill Algreen, Dean Moore, Ian Sparks
- 5 – Duncan Jackson
- 6 – Charlotte Meyers
- 7 – Robert Hughes, Alicia McKibben, Bridgit Stover
- 8 – Jayne Maxwell
- 9 – Dan Lantz
- 11 – Emily Barnett, Jennifer Corkrean, Ruth Cunningham, Jerrold Davies, Michelle Drey, Corry Pickering, Madison Smith, Katie Sparks, Kate Sullivan
- 12 – Riley Klimesh, James Murphy, Jillian Murphy, David Snyder, Jim Sparks
- 13 – Albert Hill, Jeff Honkomp
- 14 – Mary Corkrean, Coe Erpelding,

Congratulations 1st Communicants!

- Ally Pickering
- Makenzi Davis
- Maddie Feldmann
- Cole Mundus
- Lillie Smith
- Brittnie Swenson
- Madison Honkomp
- Izaak Wadle
- Danielle Faccin
- Sophie Stover
- Hannah Corkrean
- Grace Erpelding
- Tyson Rothamel
- Angela Junker
- Grant Nolan
- Nick Mortoza
- Victoria Mortoza
- Logan Jacobsen
- Katie Barnes

Congratulations to the Confirmation Students!

- Ryan Berry – *St. Thomas Aquinas*
- Erin Brittain – *St. Joan of Arc*
- Camryn Cox – *St. Sebastian*
- Brody Donohue – *St. Joseph*
- Keylie Gibson – *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*
- Adam Smith – *St. Anthony*
- Alexa Smith – *St. Jean Donovan*
- Lauren Williams – *St. Rose of Lima*

25 = 10 Helen & Jerry Hacker

Church League Softball

The five-week softball season starts up in mid-May, and we are always looking for those good Catholic players to come out for fun and fellowship. tskecow@msn.com if you are interested.

- 26 – 22 Randy & Deb Ripperger
- 29 – 23 Jason & Laura Barnes
- 30 – 24 Karen & Roger McKibben
- 31 – 28 Tim & Susan Doran

Baptismal Anniversaries

Brianna Feldman

1 – Maddie Feldman

4 – Tanner Marquardt, Madilyn McNamara

6 – Brandon Brittain

13 – Samantha Moss, Zachary Moss

15 – Michaela Hoffelmeyer, Emily Junker
Jenny Junker

16 – Zachary Schlatter

18 – Olivia Adams

21 – Bradley Bruett, Sophie Erpelding

22 – Mason McErlean

23 – Amanda Baumgartner

25 – Adam Thompson, Brittnie Thompson,
Chris Thompson, Courtnie Thompson,
Damien Thompson, Dylan Thompson

27 – Jordan Thompson

28 – Blake McCauley

29 – Cassie Wagner, Dylan Wagner,
Jenna Wagner, Morgan Wagner

30 – Madison Honkomp

Welcome!

Through the waters of baptism, our parish community welcomes **Macy Lee Musich**, daughter of Dan and Mabelle Musich.

Craft Fair Work Group

This group meets on Tuesdays at noon in the parish hall to begin making some projects for this year's craft fair. We would love to have new people come and help out whenever available. You do not have to be any craftier than knowing how to sew (by hand) or cut. We can always find something for you to do. So stop on by and check it out. For more info, call Margaret Schlueter at 462-1404. Thanks!

KWKY Radio

We would like to remind you that if your parish has any special events that you would like people to know about, KWKY Catholic Radio will announce it for you. Please call 515-223-1150 or email psa@kwky.com if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) Collection Date – May 18

As a result of your support of the CCC, parishioners have increasing opportunities to find Gospel-grounded messages and resources to strengthen their families and their faith. The collection is the ONLY national collection in which fifty percent of each donation stays in your diocese for local communications programming and projects.

Thank you for your continued support for the CCC.

Home Recycling Exchange Ministries

Des Moines' first recycling home improvement store is now partnering with Dowling Catholic High School. Home Recycling Exchange Ministries is a home improvement store that takes donated building material and recycles it back into the community by selling materials at a discounted price. Anyone can donate new or used, good-condition materials. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Donations are accepted at the store at 805 SE 14th St., Des Moines.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Come away for a weekend to listen to God's voice within your marriage/Holy Orders. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is May 30-June 1 in Des Moines and Dubuque. The weekend starts at 8 p.m. on Friday and runs until 4 p.m. on Sunday. All faith expressions are welcome! Contact John & Deb for more information or to register by phone at 641-755-3667 or by email at jcdman88@netins.net.

Attention: Prayerful Single WOMEN!

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Wichita, KS, are hosting an exciting, live-in vocational retreat on May 16-18. Pray and work with the community and hear the informative vocational talks. These retreats are very popular, so make your reservations soon. There is no cost, but space is limited. If you take a bus or plane to Wichita, they will pick you up. Call 1-800-221-1807 for more information.

Attention: Prayerful Single MEN!

The New Melleray Trappist Monastery in Peosta, Iowa, will be hosting an exciting, live-in experience vocational retreat on May 23-26. They only have this once a year, so don't miss out! Work and pray with the monks on their 3,500-acre farm and enjoy the vocational talks. There is no cost, but space is limited. For more information, call 1-800-221-1807.

hawk-i Income Guidelines Increase (Low Cost or No Cost Health Insurance for Kids)

hawk-i eligibility income guidelines have increased as of April 1. A family of four can now have a gross

income of \$42,000 annually, and their children will still qualify. No family pays more than \$20.00 a month, even if the family has several children who qualify for *hawk-i*. For more information, call 1-800-257-8563 or contact MATURA Action Corporation at 641-782-8431.

Operation Helping Hands

In the devastating wake of Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities of New Orleans continues to provide a desperately needed service to the people of Greater New Orleans by coordinating thousands of volunteers willing to lend a hand. The outcome of this effort will add to the future health of the city and confirm the commitment of the Catholic Church to serving those in need. This last February, a crew of 15 from the Des Moines, Winterset and Ankeny areas helped with the rebuilding of homes in New Orleans.

Just Faith Des Moines is sponsoring two service trips toward this rebuilding phase. August 9-16 and September 20-27 are the dates. We plan on continuing the work of Operation Helping Hands until the list of 4,000 homes is completed on the Catholic Charities list.

They are in need of volunteers to assist homeowners with interior and exterior painting, insulation, drywall installation, flooring and some carpentry work. While skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed, skilled volunteers are especially needed. Please consider donating part of your vacation time this year, working on homes of the people that continue to struggle to go home. *If you are interested, have questions or would like to make a donation - please contact Celeste Egger @ 274-6483 or eggerj@mchsi.com*

One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies

The ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES prayer event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 3. The intention for this Rosary will be for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn babies. On the day of the prayer event, it is hoped at least one million people in the U.S.A. will be praying the Rosary within the same sixty-minute time span.

People in the Central Time Zone will pray the Rosary within the 8 a.m – 9 a.m. hour.

To register to be a participant in the ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES prayer event, you may go to the web site www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org and register there or let your intention be known in writing and send it to Saint Michael the Archangel Organization, PO Box 41257, Memphis, TN 38174 (A count of the number of people registered to be participants is on the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization's web site.)

Let us all make a commitment to join in this awesome prayer crusade for the end to abortion. It is very quick and easy to register. Remember to mark it on your calendars! Please help spread the word!

Installation Ceremony for Bishop Richard E. Pates

Bishop Richard E. Pates invites everyone as part of the diocesan faith community to come to his installation ceremony as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines.

The ceremony is May 29 at 2 p.m. at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines.

Look for details in the May issue of The Catholic Mirror or on the diocesan website www.dmdiocese.org.

Food Pantry Weekend
May 3-4

