

Contacts

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Hall Phone: (641) 297-2359

Nursing Home Chaplain

Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe C.S.Sp.

Finance Council

Sara Hawk, Kayla Keller, Pat Van Dyke & David Psootka

Trustees

Pat Van Dyke & David Psootka

Pastoral Council

Rebecca Albers, Jill Gavin, Eddie Vonnahme, Gary Van Dyke & Lee Dentlinger

Safety Committee

Amy McCasland, Steve Gehringer & Frank Hawk Jr.

Inspections & Facility Maintenance

Gary Van Dyke: (515) 238-4691 grvandy@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Lesia Dembinski, Mary Seibert, Lyle Schwery, & Helen Gavin

Altar & Rosary

Knights of Columbus

Larry Bertrand: (254) 396-9551,

larry_bertrand@yahoo.com

RE Director

Michelle Fick: (641) 297-2223, joro23@juno.com

STAT Leader

Alex Miller: (515) 961-3026

Liturgy Schedule

Jill Gavin: (515) 979-3196, jill44gavin@gmail.com

Funeral Dinner Coordinators

Margie Gehringer & JoEllyn Gavin

Cemetery

Joan Psootka (641) 297-2216

Hall Rental

Kayla Keller (515) 238-2944,

keller.kayla.m@gmail.com

Collections Sunday, March 12

Tithes/Plate: \$901.00

ACH's: \$145.00

Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 19

Fourth Sunday of Lent

31:1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

IMMEDIATELY After Mass – Reconciliation

RE students, parents, parishioners

Mass intentions: Jim Brommel

9:30am Mass at St. Augustine, Milo

Monday, March 20

543: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday, March 21

245: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Adoration

5:30 PM Rosary at Immaculate Conception

6:00 PM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Mass intentions:

Wednesday, March 22

248: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

8:00 am Mass – Adoration after Mass until 9:00 am at
St Mary of the Assumption, Lacona

Thursday, March 23

247: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

8:00 am Mass - Adoration after Mass until 9:00am at

St. Augustine, Milo

Friday, March 24

248: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 25

545: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

5:30 pm Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption, Lacona

Sunday, March 26

34: Ez 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-8 Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Mass intentions: Ken Croat

9:30am Mass at St. Augustine, Milo



March 19, 2023

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Rev. Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp., Pastor
Email: eponvu@yahoo.com Mobile: (emergency only) 660-215-0757

Parish Office

Sarah Gehringer

Phone: 641 297 2359 Email: immacula@myomnitel.com

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

101 Saint James St., PO Box 88, St. Mary's IA 50241

Bulletin Available Online: www.immaculateconceptionstmarys.org

Mass Times: Sunday 8:00 AM & Tuesday 6:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday 7:30 AM

Rosary: Tuesday 5:30 PM

Adoration: Tuesday 5:00 PM, followed by a 6:00 PM Mass

WEEKEND HOMILIES

Reflections for Safe Haven Sunday:

Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday. Rose vestments are worn today to remind us to rejoice, even in this time of penance and conversion. For that reason, we will also be taking part in an initiative called Safe Haven Sunday. This is responsive to St. Paul's invitation to "live as children of the light", to expose the "fruitless works of darkness" and to awake from slumber.

Safe Havens: This weekend is about providing resources for creating "safe havens" in our home, through education, conversations, filtering and accountability software. This battle must be fought in the home, and parents have an obligation to help their children navigate this issue.

Born blind: Imagine the feeling of the man, blind from birth, who can now see. Many people who struggle with pornography have done so from a very early age, and it can feel like it's a part of them, that there is no possible life without this cross. Our Faith teaches us that there is hope, and that Jesus does want to set all of us free, from any and all sins we are struggling with.

Hope, not fear: Statistics around explicit material on the internet can be startling, and scary, and yet Christians ought to have the confidence in the words we just proclaimed, that "the Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want" and "even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil". Grace always overcomes evil!

Healing is possible: The gospel involves a man born blind, and while others are concerned with who is to blame, Jesus is concerned with healing the wound. So too does Jesus want to heal a person wounded by the sin of pornography. It is not about guilt, it is about freedom. Healing is possible.

Willful blindness: An irony of the gospel is that by the end of this passage, we learn that the Pharisees are the truly blind ones, which comes from their pride. Sometimes when it comes to pornography we can be willfully blind, whether it is by ignoring the issue, imagining that it is "no big deal" or by despairing of freedom. Humility and honesty are what helps set the blind man free, and so too this can help us be free.

Participation in healing: Jesus heals the man's blindness by smearing clay in his eyes, and then telling him to "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam". While Jesus is the primary actor in the man's healing, Jesus also asks the man to participate. So too, Jesus wants us to be free but he asks for our participation, our action.

Available Resources: • Covenant Eyes, a software that can be downloaded on internet devices that reports any "internet foul play" to a trusted monitor. • *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*, an e-book that speaks about screen accountability software, supports and structures in the home, and how to have the Christian message speak louder than the various dark messages of society. It can be downloaded at <http://learn.coventanteyes.com/equipped-shs/> or you can start a free 7-day email challenge by texting SECURE to 66866. • Programs on the diocesan website: Integrity Restored, Reclaim Sexual Health, Road to Purity and more.

Please utilize these resources, and know that while this can feel like a very big, and heavy issue, you are not alone, grace will always overcome evil, and freedom is possible. If there is one thing we should "give up" during Lent, we should give up sin and never return to it. Jesus, who said that He is the light of the world, didn't say it only about Himself. In Matthew's Gospel, He says to each one of us: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). So, with St. Paul, I say: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:14).

LENT AND EASTER + PASTORAL SCHEDULES

Stations of The Cross During Lent:

CCD Stations of the Cross at 1:45 PM
Stations of the Cross will be at 6:00 PM with a soup supper to follow:
March 22 – Lacona
March 29 – Milo
April 5 – Lacona

Fridays During Lent (St. Marys):

Fish Fry from 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM

Reconciliation/Confessions:

Lacona: March 22, 2023, @ 5:00 PM before Stations of the Cross at 6 pm

St. Marys: March 26, 2023, immediately after the 8:00 AM Mass (will get an extra priest for this day)

First Holy Communion:

- ICC, St. Marys: April 23, 2023 @ 8:00 AM
- Holy Trinity: April 30, 2023 @ Milo @ 9:30 AM

Reminder from the Diocese: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are fast days for all Catholics who are 18-59 which means 1 regular meal, 2 snacks not equal to a meal and no meat. ALL the Fridays are days of abstinence (no meat) for all Catholics age 14+

Knights of Columbus and the American Legion – Fish Fry Fridays

Fridays – March 3, 10, 17, & 24 – serving from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Adults - \$12.50, children under 12 - \$5.00, immediate Family - \$30.00



Annual Diocesan Appeal:

Thank you to the families who have already made a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal! Ongoing commitments help us to sow the seeds that sustain the Catholic Church in southwest Iowa. We prepare disciples for the domestic church, invite and welcome people into communion, draw young people into deeper communion and cultivate a culture of servant leadership as one diocesan family committed to serve and protect one another and bring each other to Christ. Your contribution cards can be placed in the collection basket, brought or mailed to the parish office, or mailed directly to the Diocese. Or you can give directly online at dmdioocese.org/giving

Please keep them in your prayers:

Jolene Schwery, Kim Kubik, AJ, Sean, & Jason Wiegert, Cindy Robison, Joyce Smith, Herb Moore, Doug Hollands, Charlotte Banks, Doug George, Mike Hraha, Brian Lippold, Mary Long, Chase Sanders, Jim Kahler, Ellen Pontolilo, Phil Finck, and Janice Gavin

Eugene Joseph Lippold



Our deepest condolences go out to the Lippold family, for the death of Eugene Lippold, who's funeral will be celebrated Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM, preceded with a rosary at 12:00 PM. Burial will follow the Mass at the St. Marys' Cemetery followed by a luncheon and memorial at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. He will be greatly missed. Please remember him, as well as his family in your prayers.

RE News from Michelle Fick:

What is the Annunciation? Look for the answer in the Sunday, March 26, bulletin. Enjoy your spring break!

Class Dates: 3/12 & 3/19 NO CLASS – spring break | 3/26 – Class and 2nd thru 8th grade reconciliation | 4/2 – Class -Palm Sunday | 4/9 NO CLASS – Easter | 4/16 Class | 4/23 NO CLASS, First Communion at the 8:00 Mass

MONEY COUNTERS

March 19: Mary Seibert and Rebecca Albers – Take to night drop box

March 26: Susan Matlage-Simms and Brenda Freeman – Take to the night drop box

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

MARCH 26

Lector: Lee Dentlinger
Gifts: Rafe Albers Family
Euch. Min: Pat VanDyke
Ushers: Dave Psootka and Tom Brommel
Servers: Jack Rezac, Ty Rezac, and Mac Rezac
Band of the Month: Mark & Jackie Matlage

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT

YEAR ROUND

LACONA: Weekly, after 8:00 am
Mass until 9:00 am
MILQ: Weekly, after 8:00 am
Mass until 9:00 am
ST. MARYS: Weekly, on Tuesdays, @ 5:00 pm, followed by a 6:00 pm Mass

