

## Contacts

**Rectory Phone:** (641) 297-2267

**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](mailto: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](mailto:larry_bertrand@yahoo.com)

### RE Director

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

### STAT Leader

Alex Miller: (515) 961-3026

### Liturgy Schedule

Jill Gavin: (515) 979-3196, [jill44gavin@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:keller.kayla.m@gmail.com)

### Collections Sunday, April 23

Tithes/Plate: \$384.00

ACH's: \$1,355.00

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday, April 30

49: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 23:1-6 1 Pt 2:20b-25  
Jn 10:1-10

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Mass intentions: Ken Croat

9:30am Mass at St. Augustine, Milo

### Monday, May 1

279: Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Jn 10:11-18  
Mt 13:54-58

### Tuesday, May 2

280: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30

5:00 – 6:00 PM – Adoration

5:30 PM Rosary & 6:00 PM Mass at Immaculate  
Conception

Mass intentions:

### Wednesday, May 3

561: 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14  
8:00 am Mass – Adoration after Mass until 9:00 am at  
St Mary of the Assumption, Lacona

### Thursday, May 4

282: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27  
Jn 13:16-20  
8:00 am Mass - Adoration after Mass until 9:00am at  
St. Augustine, Milo

### Friday, May 5

283: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6

### Saturday, May 6

284: Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14  
5:30 pm Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption, Lacona

### Sunday, May 7

52: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn  
14:1-12

7:30 AM Reconciliation

8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Mass intentions: Ken Croat

9:30am Mass at St. Augustine, Milo



April 30, 2023

## Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

101 Saint James St., PO Box 88, Saint Marys, IA 502411

### Rev. Fr. Eze Venantius Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp., Pastor

Email: [eponvu@yahoo.com](mailto:eponvu@yahoo.com) | Mobile (*emergency only*): (660) 215-0757

**Mass: 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**

### Parish Office

Sarah Gehringer, Office Manager

Phone: (641) 297-2359 | Email: [immacula@myomnitel.com](mailto:immacula@myomnitel.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM ; 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

## WEEKEND HOMILIES

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus begins with a parable about a gatekeeper who knows Jesus and opens the gate for the sheep to enter the sheepfold. Since the sheep are familiar with Jesus' voice, they trust him and follow wherever he leads. Jesus tells this parable explicitly for the Pharisees to identify his role as leader of God's people. When the Pharisees fail to understand Jesus' message, he becomes more direct: "I am the gate for the sheep" (Jn 10:7). As the gate, Jesus offers safety as well as freedom on the path to salvation. This image opens a richness for reflection. As the gate, Jesus offers access to what nourishes and protects from harm. The risen Lord sustains us in our journey, accompanying us as we move toward the Father.

Jesus is also often depicted as a shepherd that knows his sheep and calls each of them by name. In all of God's people, there is no such thing as a faceless, nameless number. We are, after all, what God has made us to be. Uniquely valuable individuals that are known and recognized by Christ as a person apart from any other person and valuable enough to be loved by him.

Let that thought sink in. We are, each one of us, completely known to Christ. Just think for a moment of all the things about yourself that you like. All the virtues, strengths, the temptations resisted, the challenges met, the good deeds done. And then think about all of the things about ourselves that we try very hard to keep hidden from the people around us: the weaknesses, the fears, the vices that seem more embarrassing than evil. The sort of qualities that we fear would make us a less loved or less respected if they were known.

But they are known. All of the virtues in each of us are seen and known, and named, by Christ. The world may not notice nor be much impressed by our personal struggles to be virtuous. But that really doesn't matter, Christ does. Our weaknesses are known too. The great truth is that Christ loves, and calls by name, weak and foolish and fearful people. Christ has no disdain or contempt for our faults. He knows human beings too well for that. He calls us away from those faults, certainly. He encourages, leads, and shepherds us away from them. But even that is a gentle and loving process. He is the Good Shepherd.

Excerpts taken from *Seasons in the Word* & *2023 Sourcebook*



Please, join us for a Donut Social in the parish hall on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, following Mass. Everyone is welcome! Coffee, drinks, and donuts provided

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Joining us today is Fr. Anthony Adibe, C.S.Sp. Thanks for being here, Fr. Anthony!
- We would like to help celebrate our parishioners' birthdays and anniversaries! You can help us by filling out your name and special date on the provided sheet in the back of the church.

### Senior Mass | May 7<sup>th</sup>

Please, join us in recognizing our Immaculate Conception seniors, John Cassady, Lily Minor, and Maggie Vonnahme. Congratulations, seniors!

### Medora United Methodist Ladies Spring Fling & Silent Auction | May 11<sup>th</sup> | 11am to 1pm

**Mother's Day | May 14<sup>th</sup>** | Coffee and donuts will be served following Mass to celebrate Mother's Day

### New Virginia Methodist Memorial Day Picnic | May 29<sup>th</sup> | Serving 11 AM – 1 PM

### Father's Day | June 18<sup>th</sup>

### Marriage Ceremony | June 23<sup>rd</sup> | St. Marys

**Mission Co-Operative Appeal | July 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** | St. Marys, Milo, and Lacona During our regularly scheduled weekend Masses

### Chicken Dinner | August 6<sup>th</sup> | 12:30 – 5:30 PM at St. Marys

Mass on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM

### RE Schedule 4/30 – Class | 5/7 – Senior Mass and Reception for Seniors and Confirmandi

#### 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

#### Annual Diocesan Appeal:

Thank you to the 22 families who have already given or pledged \$9,910 to the Annual Diocesan Appeal! We are still \$16,098 dollars away from our parish goal of \$26,008. Your help is needed. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Church in Southwest Iowa by pledging to the Appeal. A gift in any amount will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated. Your contribution card 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 [dmidiocese.org/giving](http://dmidiocese.org/giving). Thank you!

#### MONEY COUNTERS

**April 30:** Susan Matlage-Simms (take to the night drop box) and Kayla Keller

**May 7:** Rebecca Albers (take to the night drop box) and Max & Krishna Schauf

#### LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS MAY 7

**Lector:** Eddie Vonnahme

**Gifts:** Minor Family

**Euch. Min:** Katie & Maggie

Vonnahme and Johnny Cassady

**Ushers:** Louis Vonnahme and Ethan Nelson

**Servers:** Lucy & Ben Vonnahme, and Camille Edwards

**Band of the Month:** Larry and Becky Bertrand

#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT YEAR ROUND

LACONA: Weekly, after 8:00 AM

Mass until 9:00 AM

MILO: Weekly, after 8:00 AM

Mass until 9:00 AM

ST. MARYS: Tuesdays @ 5:00 PM

followed by 6:00 PM Mass