

The Parishes of

St. Patrick's
903 Central Avenue
Estherville, Iowa

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St. Mary's
404 5th Avenue
Armstrong, Iowa

www.stpatstmary.com



“As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth”

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 22nd, 2020

Pastor: Rev. Merlin J. Schrad

schradm@bishopheelan.org

Deacon: John Rudd

dcn2012@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Rectory & Parish Office

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday

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SP: Richard/Marilyn Bose 362-2509

Mary Duitsman 712-209-4389

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Attention - The church & offices will be closed (locked) until further notice, call for an appointment

From the Desk of Fr. Merlin

March 22, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus' power and claims divide those who encounter him. He is the long-awaited one, and he heals all wounds, even giving sight to the blind. We can trust that Jesus can heal all the wounds of our lives, giving us sight to see and a light to follow in the darkness of sin.

Power of Prayer

As we all are affected by the coronavirus one way or another, we must remain confident that God will help us through this worry. Let us continue to pray for the solutions we need and pray for those being affected by this virus. **I would like to address our parish families with a few important matters.** As many of you are aware by now, Bishop Nickless has suspended Mass for 8 weeks, which will include the rest of Lent and Holy Week. This year will be the first time I would guess that many of us will not be able to attend Mass at Easter and maybe not even be able to be with family. I am sending the bulletin this week only so that you may have a few resources in which you can listen to or watch Mass. This will be a time when you will have to make a special effort to listen to Mass. **I want to remind you also to check our web page for bulletins and parish news for the next six weeks.** A reminder our web page is: www.stpatstmary.com. The Bishop also requested that all funerals be attended by family members only and no parish dinner be served. The Religious Education Programs have come to an end for this year and our First Communion Masses will be celebrated on a day agreed upon by parents and the parish. A reminder that it is very important, if you are able to, to continue your weekly or monthly contribution. You can send them to **St. Mary's Box 437 Armstrong 50514 or St. Patrick's Box 383 Estherville 51334. You will not be able to drop them off unless you call ahead as the church and office will be locked. We have automatic deposit capabilities for both parishes. If you are interested in signing up give the offices a call.**

What follows are various resources to find a daily Mass or weekend Mass:

Facebook: The Cathedral Parish-Sioux City

Bishop Robert Barron (Daily Mass)

Radio: EWTN Radio 88.1FM Storm Lake

Television: EWTN Television (Direct TV, Dish Network & Mediacom)

Websites: dowr.org bostoncatholic.org ewtn.com sfcatholic.org (Diocese of Sioux Falls)

[Wordonfire.com](http://wordonfire.com) (Bishop Barron) <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass>

YouTube: Diocese of - Sioux Falls, Loretto Abbey, Toronto, Ontario, or Algona

This is a start but you will have to find the times and places. God bless, together we will get through this and our faith will grow as we depend on God and one another in our family,

Becoming Children of God

Congratulations to **Ellie Eileen Heinrichs and Jase Russell Heinrichs** who were baptized on Saturday March 14th at St. Patrick's. They are the children of Levi and Heidi (Evans) Heinrichs. May God bless them and all of our children and their parents as they grow in faith and feel the love and protection of Jesus in their lives.

Stations of the Cross

Since we are not having public Stations of the Cross, I invite you to regularly check out [parishioner resources](https://scdiocese.org/parishioner-resources) on the Sioux City Diocese website at <https://scdiocese.org/parishioner-resources> for options to online prayer and Mass.

Food for Thought

Rev. Dr. William Willimon, author of **And the Last Shall be First** tells the story about a young Methodist circuit rider who was sent by his bishop in the early 1800's to try to start a church in a town famous for its lawlessness, murders, and beatings: "The young minister entered the town's only pulpit with fear and trembling. He looked out upon two-dozen hostile, mean-looking faces. He was shaking so much that he could barely hold his Bible, but he went ahead and managed to preach his sermon. When the sermon ended, there was utter silence. Then, one of the meanest of the mean-looking characters swaggered up to him and said, Son, you don't have to worry; we ain't going to hurt you. But we aim to shoot that no-good rascal that sent you here to us."

March - Month of St. Joseph/Feast Day 19th

“St. Joseph was chosen among all men, to be the protector and guardian of the Virgin Mother of God; the defender and foster father of the Infant- God, and the only co-operator upon earth, the one confident of the secret of God in the work of redemption.”

~ St. Bernard of Clairvaux

"We have close to us as much as Joseph had at Nazareth; we have our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, but our poor eyes fail to see Him. Let us once become interior souls and we shall immediately see. In no better way can we enter into the Heart of our Lord than through Saint Joseph. Jesus and Mary are eager to pay the debts which they owe him for his devoted care of them, and their greatest pleasure is to fulfill his least desire. Let him, then, lead you by hand into the interior sanctuary of Jesus Eucharistic."

— St. Peter Julian Eymard

Mission Quilting- There will be no mission quilting until further notice.

“The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things- herein lies the true value of the fast.”

~ St. John Chrysostom

Lenten Collections for almsgiving throughout Lent

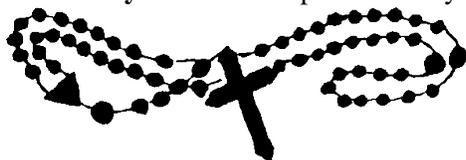
Aid to Global Churches, Holy Land, and Retired & Infirm Priests. Envelopes are in your packets. Please Mail

Pennies for Heaven- Money donations may be mailed to Cliff Roth or the church by **April 12th** as the church is locked due to the coronavirus. Mark it Pennies for Heaven.

Baby Bottle Campaign, baby bottles were due back on March 15th, if you haven't returned yours you will need to call the office before returning them to the church.



Pray the Rosary online at <https://therosary.online/>



Please Pray For

Jack Fredericksen, Brice McArdle, Carol Reis, Janeen Boggess, Rick Steinberger, Diane Elling, Tom Umscheid, Kevin Klingbeil, Dee Brainerd

Sponsor of the week: **Hoyer Chiropractic**

Parish Financial Blessings Year-to-Date Giving Information July 1st -March 16th, 2020

St. Patrick's

Total Income \$ 220,066.66
Total Expenses \$ 214,018.00

Difference + 6,048.66

Sunday Collection: Mar. 14th – 15th \$ 2,777.00

Automatic (ACH) Deposits \$ 70.00
Loose Collection \$ 66.00
2nd Collection \$ 160.00
Spanish Mass \$ 245.00
Parish Rental \$ 500.00
Building Fund \$ 50.00
Easter Flowers \$ 15.00

Bills

Missalettes \$ 839.51
Educational/Ministry \$ 250.85
Electricity/Water/Refuse \$ 1,251.56
Repairs & Maintenance \$ 441.78

St. Mary's

Total Income \$ 52,284.77
Total Expenses \$ 41,692.22

Difference + 10,592.55

Sunday Collection: Mar. 15th \$ 440.00

Automatic (ACH) Deposits \$ 115.00
Loose Collection \$ 54.00
Candle Income \$ 3.00
DAA Payback \$ 800.00

Bills

Repairs & Maintenance \$ 112.79

(A Prayer for when Sacramental Communion it is not possible)

Act of Spiritual Communion

By St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.



To our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe

Pray for us, loving Mother,
And gain for our nation and world,
And for all our families and loved ones,
The protection of your holy angels,
That we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
We ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
Wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
Teach all of us in the church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
Knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
Health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
Keep us in the embrace of your arms,
Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen

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