

*The word of God is living and effective;  
discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart.*

( Hebrews 4:12 )

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is the final Sunday before the Lenten Season begins. The Gospel today exhorts us to trust in God's Providence. God alone can free us from worry about earthly things; what we really need to worry about are the things of heaven. Faith in God frees us from the former so that we might seek the later. Faith in God does not remove practical concerns of food and drink and clothing. But it can remove the worry and anxiety over these things that sometimes dominate our lives and keep us from seeking above all God's kingdom of righteousness.

We have had to borrow from our Foundation yet again to pay off all of our various obligations to the diocese and stay current with our creditors. Please help us lower the debt to the Foundation. It is listed in the bulletin each week. At least we owe ourselves at this point and not much outside of the parish, except for the continuing elevator payments. These payments are about \$9,000.00 per month. Your continued sacrifices to pay off this debt is also greatly appreciated. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission to be present and to lead others to Christ.

The Anglo-Saxon word Lent originally referred to the "spring season" and came to replace the Latin "quadragesima" meaning "the fortieth day." This describes the forty day fast before Easter. The number 40 is used in Biblical texts to signal a lengthy period of time. So Moses and the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness for forty years. In the New Testament, Jesus is tempted in the desert where he ate nothing for forty days and forty nights. By the mid Third Century this period of preparation for Easter was already well-established in the Church and has been observed as a penitential period of preparation for the great feast of Easter, celebrating the Lord's rising from the dead.

Ash Wednesday begins on March 1st this week. There will be two Masses that day at noon and 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are two ecclesiastical fast days for those who are bound to fasting. That is, one full meal and two partial meals and no meat. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstaining from meat. Those who are not able to fast should perform some other act of penance. Daily rosary, Stations of the Cross, careful reading of the Bible and acts of charity are recommended to all of us. We will again be having our wonderful Fish Fry suppers with the first Friday of Lent, March 3rd. Although they are "all you can eat" try and keep in mind the penitential character of Friday! These will be followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for these activities.

Let us pray for peace in our world and harmony among all peoples. May the Lord be with you all and bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Agustin M. Nichols*

Pastor

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 591,620.43  
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00

**DEBT OWED TO THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN FOUNDATION: \$20,602.84.**  
*Please help us reduce this!*

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE  
FEBRUARY 25 TO MARCH 5**

**TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT</b>	4:00PM	Intentions of Robert & Donna Marasco
<b>25</b>	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
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<b>SUN</b>	8:30AM	+Mary Sa Dinh
<b>26</b>	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
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<b>MON</b>		
<b>27</b>	12:00PM	+Bob Kharouf
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<b>TUE</b>		
<b>28</b>	12:00PM	+Rose Chiodo
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<b>WED</b>		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>01</b>	12:00PM	+Thanh Tran
	7:00PM	Intentions of Maria Lan Nguyen Family
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<b>THU</b>		
<b>02</b>	12:00PM	+Jeffery Langan
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<b>FRI</b>		
<b>03</b>	12:00PM	+Jerry Kluesner, Intentions of Jean Kluesner
	7:00PM	Stations of the Cross
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<b>SAT</b>		
<b>04</b>	9:00AM	+Jon Farrington
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		<b>(Vigil Mass)</b>
	4:00PM	+Lisa Castelline Behnami
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<b>SUN</b>		
<b>05</b>	8:30AM	Intentions of Maria Lan Nguyen Family
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
		Imme Baptism

**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:**  
[www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn](http://www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn)  
<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tueskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

**CATECHISM CORNER:**

*What are the names of the Holy Spirit?*

**ANSWER:** "The Holy Spirit" is the proper name of the third Person of the Most Holy Trinity. Jesus also called him the Paraclete (Consoler or Advocate) and the Spirit of Truth. The New Testament also refers to him as the Spirit of Christ, of the Lord, of God-the Spirit of Glory and the Spirit of the Promise.



*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*February 26, 2017*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**FEBRUARY 27 THRU MARCH 5**

MON 9:00AM Adoration Begins@  
27

TUE 10:00AM Boy's Youth Choir+++  
28 1:00PM Youth Choir+++  
7:00PM RCIA##

WED 9:00AM Adoration Begins@  
01 9:15AM Bible Study+  
6:15PM NO Religious Ed.\*\*



THU 8:00AM Organ Practice+++  
02 7:00PM Adult Faith Class+  
6:00PM Bell Choir+++  
7:00PM Choir+++

FRI 9:00AM Adoration Begins@  
03 4:45PM KC Fish Fry until 6:45pm

SAT 8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
04 8:00AM Diocesan Marriage Retreat  
10:00AM Organ Practice  
1:30PM Church in use

SUN 9:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group+  
05 1:00PM Organ Practice+

**SIGN INDICATORS**

+++ = Choir Loft; \*\* = School; @ = Chapel; \* = Rectory  
 + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room;  
 (N) = (North Hall); (S) = (South Hall)

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of February 27, 2017:**

**Monday:** Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27  
**Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31  
**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32  
**Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

**LIFELINES:** Abortion and Adoption-The number of would-be-adoptive parents (of newborn babies) far outstrips the supply in America. Each year in the United States, about 51,000 American children are placed for adoption. In addition, about 6,500 foreign children are adopted by Americans, for a total of a little under 58,000 children adopted per year. Experts estimate somewhere between 1-2 million couples seek to adopt yearly. Every year, there are about 1.3 million abortions. Sadly, only 4% of women with unwanted pregnancies give their children up for adoption. (prolifearticles.org.)



**FOUNDATION NOTES:** Another benefit of an accumulation of sizable assets (1 million dollars or more) in our Basilica of St. John Foundation, is the ability to borrow from it for emergency diocesan obligations. We have done that on a few occasions. Now that loan needs to be repaid to the Foundation to keep its asset value intact.



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:** Ash Wednesday Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Americas at 8:15am. Please join the students and staff of Holy Family School as we begin the Lenten season. Holy Family staff and students celebrate Lent with weekly prayer services each Monday morning at 8:15am in the school gym. Parents are welcome to join us on our Lenten journey. School will dismiss at 1:00pm on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, for conferences. The ACES program will be available that afternoon for childcare.

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:** If you have not yet turned in your child's Baptismal Certificate please do so ASAP. You can bring it to class on Wednesday or drop it off at the parish office. It is *Diocesan Policy* that we have a current copy of the Baptismal Certificate or the Sacrament *can not take place*.

**SUPPORTIVE CARE IOWA:** The Iowa bishops' "Supportive Care Iowa" project is available to help people seeking guidance on making decisions about end-of-life health care that is aligned with Catholic values. Often we cannot foresee situations that will arise in regard to our health. Therefore it may be important, in advance, to choose a person who knows us and can speak on our behalf if we are not capable of doing so. There are now trained volunteers, called "Catholic Advanced Care Planning Consultants," that can help individuals with the completion of documents that designate another person with power of attorney for health care in the event of incapacity. It is our parish's goal to help Catholics have these faith-filled discussions with friends and family in advance of a crisis and to provide guidance in completing advance directive forms in alignment with Catholic moral principles. This service is available without charge. Please contact the parish office (515-244-3101, ext 0) if you are interested in this service.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Mass with Healing Prayer Services:** There will be a Mass with a Healing Prayer Service at the following parishes celebrated by Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga from the Diocese of Cyangugu, Rwanda: Friday, March 3rd, 7:00pm at St Anthony's at 15 Indianola Road, Des Moines, IA; Monday, March 6th, 6:00pm at St Ambrose at 607 High Street, Des Moines; Tuesday, March 7th, 6:00pm at St Pius at 3663 66th Street, Urbandale. During the 1994 genocide Fr. Ubald lost over 80 members of his family and over 45,000 of his parishioners were exterminated. He escaped by order of his Bishop through the Congo on foot in the middle of the night. When he left Rwanda at that time he made a promise to his Bishop that he would return to bring healing to his people. Fr. Ubald has an amazing healing gift and his focus is on healing, forgiveness and evangelization wherever he goes. To learn more about Fr. Ubald and his work go to [www.frubald.com](http://www.frubald.com). Please come, bring a friend, and tell others to join us for this special Mass of healing. Fr. Ubald would also say to come and pray for others who cannot be there, to pray for their healing. Jesus is not limited to time and space. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Prayer Service:** Bishop Pates invites you to a Prayer Service on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:00pm at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The service is the initiative of Catholic Charities Des Moines to pray and to show solidarity with and support for our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. We are the body of Christ and if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored all the parts share its joy. 1 Corinthians 2:26.