

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

(John 8:12)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate "Laetare Sunday," the Sunday of rejoicing, because we are halfway to Easter. The Gospel recounts the story of the man born blind. We are all somewhat blind in the spiritual sense. But Christ has come to enlighten the way to the eternal kingdom. Let us follow him more closely during this holy season of Lent.

There is a second national collection this week for the Catholic Relief Services, (two weeks ago it was for Operation Rice Bowl of Catholic Relief Services to alleviate hunger.) This collection is used to support agricultural development to strengthen economies and to provide services to survivors of human trafficking, and to help immigrants and refugees. Please do what you can to help.

We have launched our ADA campaign for 2017. It is extremely important that we make our goal to take the burden off of our financial resources. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge now in a spirit of good support for our parish. You should have received pledge cards in the mail. If you did not there are blank ones in the back of the Basilica in the pamphlet racks. In the past only about 20% of registered parishioners made any pledge to the ADA. **We need 100% participation if we are to met our goal. Please help us!**

We now have low gluten hosts for those who need them. Please inform the parish office if you need to avail yourselves of them. The MC will have a pyx next to me at Communion time. Those who need to have them will receive them from the MC. As of this writing we are aware of a few who will need them at the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. They will be available at the Vigil Mass only if we are informed that someone needs them.

Please help us lower our 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 and some \$30,000.00 to the diocese for our fire and liability insurance. The elevator payments are about \$9,000.00 per month. Your continued sacrifices to pay off these debts is greatly appreciated. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission to be present in this area and to lead others to Christ. The Lord is not outdone in generosity which is made in his name. Please help me and the Finance Council so that we may stay current with all of our obligations! I assure you we are doing all we can to wisely use the income that comes in each week.

Come join us for our wonderful Fish Fry suppers on the Fridays of Lent. 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 in Christ,

Agustin M. Nichols

Pastor

ELEVATOR FUND

Current Donations.....\$ 593,243.43
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00

DEBT OWED TO THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN FOUNDATION: \$17,093.84.
Please help us reduce this!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$18,414 has already been paid toward our 2017 ADA. That's 14% of our \$132,297 assessment.

COMMUNAL PENANCE: Mark your calendar for next Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 am. There will be 4 priests available to hear confessions.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

MARCH 25 TO APRIL 02

TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT 4:00PM +Whipple & Gabriel Families
25 6:00PM Spanish Mass

SUN 8:30AM +Kathryn Mauro
26 10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

MON
27 12:00PM Intentions of the Sinclair Family

TUE
28 12:00PM +Martin Harkin

WED
29 12:00PM +Mary & Bernald Richter

THU
30 12:00PM +Bob Kharouf, Special Intention

FRI
31 12:00PM +Dennis Schmitz
7:00PM Stations of the Cross

SAT
01 9:00AM +Jon Farrington

(Vigil Mass)

4:00PM +Richard Sparks

SUN
02 8:30AM +Antonia & Marko Yurich
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:

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 tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com or Terri at 321-2743 or sinc2@aol.com.

CATECHISM CORNER:

What symbols are used to represent the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER: There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit: *living water* which springs from the wounded Heart of Christ and which quenches the thirst of the baptized; *anointing with oil*, which is the sacramental sign of Confirmation; *fire* which transforms what it touches; the *cloud*, dark or luminous, in which the divine glory is revealed; the *imposition of hands* by which the Holy Spirit is given; the *dove* which descended on Christ at his baptism and remained with him.



The Spring Concert of the Catholic Youth Choir of Central Iowa will be held Tuesday, March 28, 7:00pm at the Basilica of St. John. Please join us for a special evening of sacred song where you are sure to be inspired!



The Basilica of St. John
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 2017

Respect
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK
MARCH 27 THRU APRIL 02

MON 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 27 1:00PM Youth Choir Dress Rehearsal##
 6:30PM Finance Council Meeting%

TUE 7:00PM Catholic Youth Choir Concert
 28 7:00PM RCIA**

WED 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 29 9:15AM Bible Study+
 10:00AM Church Tour##
 6:15PM Religious Ed.**

THU 8:00AM Organ Practice+++
 30 10:00AM Church Tour##
 6:00PM Bell Choir+++
 7:00PM Choir+++
 7:00PM Adult Faith Class+

FRI 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 31 4:45PM KC Fish Fry until 6:45pm

SAT 8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 01 8:00AM Diocesan Marriage Retreat
 10:00AM **COMMUNAL PENANCE**

SUN 8:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group+
 02 9:00AM Hispanic Meeting**
 12:00PM Foundation Meeting+
 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 March 27, 2017:

Monday Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

LIFELINES: The Lenten season is marked by the urgent call to repent. It is a call to make a conscious and free choice to turn away from sin, which leads to death, and embrace the Gospel, which leads to life. It is, in fact, the full flowering of the call Moses issued in Deuteronomy 30:19, "I have set before you life and death...Choose life!"
www.PriestsForLife.org, Fourth Sunday of Lent

FOUNDATION NOTES: As Lent draws closer to an end, we remind ourselves that prayer, fasting & almsgiving is part of our Catholic faith and obligation. A contribution to the Basilica of St. John Foundation, by use of your yellow/gold tithing envelope, would be a good gesture of sacrifice.



PRAYERS PLEASE: For the repose of the soul of *Dau Tran* who recently passed away. Please also pray for his family & friends in their time of need.



PRAYERS PLEASE: For the repose of the soul of *Ramona Rocha* who recently passed away. Please also pray for her family & friends in their time of need.



PRAYERS PLEASE: For the repose of the soul of *Tin Phan* who recently passed away. Please also pray for her family & friends in their time of need.



PRAYERS PLEASE: For the repose of the soul of *Cathy O'Hara* who recently passed away. Please also pray for her family & friends in their time of need.

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.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: Do you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to minister to the homebound? To take Holy Communion and spend time with those who otherwise cannot receive Jesus in the Eucharist? They long for Jesus as we do. If you feel a special calling for this ministry please contact Linda Murphy at 515-865-1050 or nanamurphy02@gmail.com. Thank you! God bless!

9TH ANNUAL BASILICA TRIP ACROSS IOWA: Have you saved the date yet? (September 21, 2017) Each week information about one of the sights we will see on this years trip will be given. One of our stops will be St. Patrick's church in Imogene, Iowa. This church was built about the same time as our Basilica. It is also on the National Registry of Historic places. We will have a guided tour by a church docent and learn about the magnificent history and of its architectural beauty. Last year this church hosted one of our Diocese holy doors. This a must see! *Check this box for next week's revelation!*

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars for our Annual Seder Meal to be held on Holy Thursday, April 13th at 6:00pm in the parish hall. Prior to Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30pm, come experience the Passover (Seder) Meal/the Exodus from Egypt. There will be a freewill offering to help with costs. More information to come!

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: School will dismiss at 1:00pm on Friday, March 31. Please be at the school to pick up your child at 1:00pm, or make arrangements with the ACES program for your child to attend after school childcare. Parents, please mark on your calendar that there will be no school on Monday, April 3, for teacher professional development. School pictures will be taken Friday, April 7. Wear your nice clothes and great smiles that day! 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.