

*Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us!*

(Luke 24:32)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we hear the Gospel story of the disciples on their way to Emmaus. They encounter Jesus and recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Each week as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is in our midst in this most special way. Let us always remember why we come together, and to give praise to God for this most wonderful and enduring gift to his Church.

This year the Church celebrates the 100th anniversary of the apparition at Fatima where the Blessed Mother appeared to the shepherd children in 1917. From May 1-13 we will pray the rosary before Mass each day. You are invited to join us for this devotion as we ask the Blessed Mother to help us in our daily lives.

We are most grateful to Bishop Charron for being with us last weekend to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We are also grateful to Bishop Pates for confirming our young people this past Tuesday. It was a very nice celebration.

I wish to thank the Knights of Columbus for their hard work in organizing the Fish Fry this year. I believe it was the year with the highest profit to date, about \$9,200.00. This was a tremendous help with our finances and obligations.

After much prayer and reflection the decision has been made to close St. Benedict's Mission. My letter this week as an insert explains how we came to this decision. The last day the Mission will be open is 29 June. I thank all of you who have been such constant supporters of this outreach program. I assure you that its closing will not deprive people of help since there are now many food pantries in the metro area.

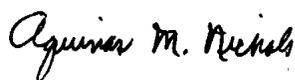
We have launched our ADA campaign for 2017. It is extremely important that we make our goal to take the burden off of our financial resources. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge now in a spirit of good support for our parish. You should have received pledge cards in the mail. If you did 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 meet our goal. Please help us! Please watch the bulletin to see where we stand in this effort.**

It is with great joy that I can announce to you that the entire debt owed to the Basilica Foundation has been paid off, thanks to your continued generosity. That is certainly great news for us. The elevator payments continue each month at about \$9,000.00 per month. Your continued sacrifices to pay off this debt 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.

As we celebrate our Easter joy during the coming weeks, be assured of my prayers and a special remembrance in all the Masses. May the Lord's grace grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor



DEBT OWED TO THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN FOUNDATION: Has been paid in full!!! Thank you!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

APRIL 29 TO MAY 7

TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT 29 4:00PM +Dominic Thuan Nguyen
6:00PM Spanish Mass

SUN 30 8:30AM Parish & Benefactors
10:30AM +Jon Farrington

MON 01 12:00PM +Hoa Vu

TUE 02 12:00PM +Anne Elizabeth Swaney

WED 03 12:00PM +Betty Brien

THU 04 12:00PM Intentions of Pedro Osorio

FRI 05 12:00PM +Tom, Don, & Larry Richter

SAT 06 9:00AM +Marguerite Claerhout

(Vigil Mass)

4:00PM +Aggie Gavin

SUN 07 8:30AM +Kathryn Mauro
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

First Communion & Reception

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 [tueskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or sinc2@aol.com.

CATECHISM CORNER:

Question:

***What is the work of
the Spirit in Mary?***

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
(Look for the answer in next weeks bulletin.)

**Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers and Care Ministry:
Schedules are ready for pick up in the sacristy this weekend.**

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$35,961.25 or 27%, has been paid toward our 2017 ADA assessment. If everyone participates, we can pay this bill without further debt.



The Basilica of St. John
Third Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2017

Respect
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK
MAY 1 THRU MAY 7

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| MON 01 | 9:00AM 6:00PM 6:30PM 7:00PM | Adoration Begins@ Organ Practice KC Council Meeting+ Finance Council Meeting+ |
| TUE 02 | 6:00PM 6:00PM 7:00PM 7:00PM | Organ Practice Bell Choir+++ Choir+++ RCIA+ |
| WED 03 | 9:00AM 6:15PM | Adoration Begins@ Religious Ed.**,## |
| THU 04 | 7:00PM 6:00PM 7:00PM | Adult Faith Book Study** Bell Choir+++ Choir+++ |
| FRI 05 | 9:00AM 7:00PM | Adoration Begins@ First Reconciliation |
| SAT 06 | 8:30AM 10:00AM 10:00AM 12:00PM | Chaplet of Divine Mercy First Communion set up-parish hall Organ Practice## First Communion Practice## |
| SUN 07 | 8:00AM | Vietnamese Prayer Group+ Catholic Communication Campaign— Diocesan 2nd Collection |

Daily Scripture Readings for the week of May 1, 2017:

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|-------------------|--|
| Monday | Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29 |
| Tuesday: | Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14 |
| Thursday: | Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51 |
| Friday: | Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59 |
| Saturday: | Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 |
| Sunday: | Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 |

LIFELINES: Private Issue...Government Should Not Interfere. Many pro-choice people believe that abortion does not belong in the realm of government and is a "woman's private issue". This raises a fundamental question. Should we, as a nation, protect all human beings, or should we discriminate based on age, race and place of residence---in this case, the mother's womb? We should not, for example, let people commit rape, steal or drive drunk. Given the biological fact that the unborn are living human beings, the question is not whether the government has the right to prohibit abortion, but whether it has the right not to. The pertinent question is not whether a woman has a right to privacy, but whether her right to privacy supersedes her innocent child's right to life. www.pro-lifearticles.org

ELEVATOR FUND

Current Donations.....\$ 600,627.43
 Goal.....\$ 800,000.00

We would like to *thank* all those who came to "The Fire and The Mercy" Show last Friday, April 21. It was a great night and a wonderful show. We thank Tom Quiner for his production of Pentecost, all the actors, especially our own Barry Cropp and Rosie Tatz, they did a magnificent job. We thank our maintenance men Rob and Thang for doing all the heavy lifting, arranging of tables & set and letting Rosemary show them where things were to go. We also thank Fran with Ciao Catering, for the delicious food. And all those that helped with hosting, serving and cleanup. God bless, Steve and Rosemary



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Will be Sunday, May 7, at the 10:30am Mass. There will be 50 children who will receive the Holy Eucharist! Please keep them in your prayers this coming week, as they make their final preparation!



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: Please continue to pray for the family of Stephen Kim, husband of Ester and father of Holy Family students, Suan and David. Stephen tragically lost his life on April 21, 2017. Donations for the family are being collected through a gofundme campaign to assist with burial and other family needs. Donations are also being collected at Holy Family School. If you have any questions, please call 262-8025. <https://www.gofundme.com/stephen-kims-family>

9TH ANNUAL BASILICA TRIP ACROSS IOWA: Our last stop will be in Villisca, Iowa. Have you heard of the axe murders? In 1912 eight people were killed in the same house with an axe and six of them were children. Nobody heard a thing. The person responsible was never caught. There are several theories but none proven. We will stop by for a photo and then off to the Coring Winery.



GARDENING HELP NEEDED: Volunteer help is needed to water, weed and keep up the grounds around the church and rectory this Summer. Please call the parish office if you are able to help. (244-3101, ext. 0)

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop Drumm Garage Sale: Begins on Thursday, May 4th and continues each Thursday through September. Hours are 9:30am-1:30pm. The sale is located in the garage next to the Bishop Drumm Care Center. Donations may be dropped off at the garage during those times or by calling Sue at 279-1843. No beds, old tvs or computers.

Celebrate MOTHER'S DAY: With Iowa Catholic Radio! Join us Thursday, May 11th for the Ladies' MOSAIC Luncheon, being held from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Des Moines. In this month of Mary and of all mothers we will hear speaker Ellen Miller highlight Mary's Meals and how over a million children are being fed everyday all across the globe at their places of education. She will tell of her own faith journey after her son moved to Africa to join Mary's Meals as a missionary. After six visits to Africa to visit her son, Ellen was given a perspective on her own life of how Christ's plans for us aren't always ours. This month we would like to sponsor the meals for each child at an entire school in Africa. In the spirit of MOSAIC's outreach, there will be opportunities at the luncheon to contribute toward that worthy cause. To register for the luncheon go to IowaCatholicRadio.com, call 515-223-1150 or visit us on Facebook.