

St. Mary of the Assumption

119 4th Street, PO Box 68
West Point, Iowa 52656
319-837-6808
westpointstmary.org

St. Boniface

609 Washington
Farmington, Iowa 52626



Fall 2021 Newsletter

The Confirmation Preparation Journey:

Students in 8th & 9th grade prepare for Confirmation by learning various aspects of the Catholic faith, participating in small group discussions, and completing local service projects. Our program is designed to help students grow in their personal relationship with God by helping them understand their beliefs and equipping them to live and share their faith. All students are required to have 2 consecutive years of religious education, either in Religious Education or at Holy Trinity, when preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students should be enrolled and actively participating in classes for one year prior to the years he/she prepares for the celebration of the Sacrament. It is exciting and rewarding to see the spiritual growth that takes place in the Confirmandi as they journey towards Confirmation! Students who participate in the journey with an open heart and willingness to grow and be challenged reap the most benefit.

Confirmation preparation class for public school students meets on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year and also completes several service projects throughout the year. This year I will also be working with the HTC ninth graders and leading them in a Gospel-centered video based curriculum called, *The Search* as an addition to the religious education they already receive in preparation for Confirmation through their religion class. Below are things we review and learn in class.

- How to Pray:
 - ⇒ Sign of the Cross
 - ⇒ Our Father
 - ⇒ Hail Mary
 - ⇒ Act of Contrition
 - ⇒ Apostles Creed
 - ⇒ Nicene Creed
 - ⇒ Grace before meals
 - ⇒ spontaneous non-memorized prayers
- The Ten Commandments
- Why Catholicism and Catholic Apologetics
- The Seven Sacraments
- What is the Mass?
- Confirmation and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The special precepts of the Church
- Why is there a Pope? Understanding Church hierarchy.
- The corporal and spiritual works of mercy
- The mysteries of the rosary and its basic format
- Vocations
- Growing in your personal relationship with Christ
- The Bible
- Heaven, Purgatory, Hell
- The Last things

If you would like to help our confirmation students we ask that you offer them up in your daily prayers.

PRAYER FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.

Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love.

Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand.

Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example.

We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Church Synod 2021-2023



Pope Francis celebrated Mass at St Peter's Basilica in Rome for the solemn opening of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place in three stages over the next two years. The faithful from around the world; including lay men and women, priests, seminarians, women and men religious, cardinals and bishops – took part in the liturgy, which marked the beginning of a two-year synodal process.

In his homily, Pope Francis took the day's Gospel reading, recounting Jesus' encounter with a rich young man, as the starting point for a reflection on synodality: "Celebrating a Synod," he said, "means walking on the same road, together." Following the example of Jesus, he emphasized three verbs that

characterize the Synod: *encounter*, *listen*, and *discern*.

Encounter

In the Gospels, we often see Jesus on a journey, open to an encounter with those He meets along the way, present to them, and concerned about their questions. Like Jesus, the Pope said, "we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter." This involves an openness to God, taking time for prayer and adoration, and listening to what the Holy Spirit tells us. It also requires openness to others, as well as courage and "a willingness to allow ourselves to be challenged by the presence and the stories of others."

Listen

Pope Francis said that a true encounter only comes through listening to others, noting that Jesus listens not just with the ears, but with the heart. When we follow Jesus in listening with the heart, "people feel they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey."

The Holy Father invited us to ask ourselves if we are good at listening, if we allow others to express themselves. He said that the Holy Spirit is asking us to listen to the "questions, concerns, and hopes of every Church," and to the challenges and changes presented by the world around us." "Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties," he pleaded. Instead, "let us listen to one another."

Discern

Pope Francis insisted that "encounter and listening are not ends in themselves," but must lead to discernment. "Whenever we enter into dialogue," he explained, "we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on the journey." As with the rich young man, Jesus helps us to discern, "to look within" and to discover what God reveals to us, "to discern in that light" what our hearts "truly treasure."

This "is a valuable lesson to us," Pope Francis said, adding that "the Synod is a journey of spiritual discernment that takes place in adoration, in prayer, and in dialogue with the Word of God."

Where God is leading us

In these days of the Synod, the Pope said, "Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time – and the direction in which He wants to lead us." "Let us have a good journey together," Pope Francis said in conclusion. He expressed the hope that we might be "pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Spirit." And he urged us not to miss out "on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening, and discernment."

For more information follow us on our parish website, our bulletin, and Facebook pages.

Rev. Dennis Hoffman



Mass Intentions and Prayers For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one.

St. Mary's and St. Boniface will begin scheduling Mass intentions for 2022 on Tuesday, December 1st. Intentions are \$5 per Mass. You may request six Masses for the year, with up to three on weekends and three during the week. Additionally, no more than six Masses may be said for someone within a year.

We do not have Masses on Mondays. Tuesday, Masses are at St. Boniface.

During the school year, Wednesday Masses at St. Mary's may only be scheduled when Fr. Dennis says the Mass.

Please stop in or call Jen in the parish office 319-837-6808 between 8:00 AM and Noon if you have questions or if you would like to schedule a Mass.

We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray not only for our loved ones but also for the forgotten. Those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!



Help us go green and save money.

St. Mary's and St. Boniface will email contribution statements to parish members for the first time this year. Please contact Jen at the parish office westpointstmary@diodav.org to update your email information. You can also submit your information by cutting off the form below and dropping it into the collection basket. Thank you!



I would like to have my statement emailed to me!

First Name

Last Name

Cell Phone

Email Address

Fall Festival Follow Up

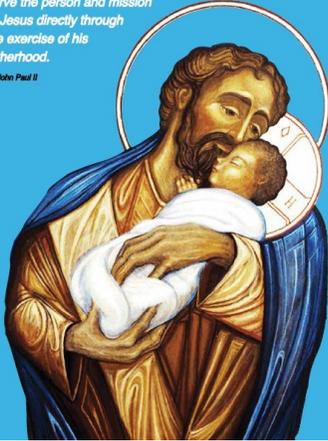


**This Year
Was A
Success
The Fall
Festival
made over
\$300,000!**



Thank you to all our parishioners and local businesses!

St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood.
St. John Paul II



The Annual Diocesan Appeal

What does the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) cover? The ADA is the major source of income for the Diocese of Davenport.

Priests and Deacons: It covers the expense for priestly and deacon formation, as well as assisting priests with their retirement.

Confirmations: Bishop Zinkula can travel to parishes for Confirmation.

Annulments: The Diocese is one of the few dioceses in the U.S. that covers the expense of annulments so there is no financial barrier to anyone seeking this process.

Ministerial Resources for Parishes: It covers the administration costs for many diocesan programs such as; Catholic Schools, Stewardship, Social Action, Catholic Charities, Hispanic Ministry, Youth Ministry & much more.

Expenses covered by the ADA include salaries for all diocesan employees including the bishop, all directors and staff.

Thank you for your generous response to the request from Bishop Zinkula to make a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. St. Mary's parish goal is \$25,146 we are at 77% of our goal. St Boniface parish goal is \$11,756, we are at 88% of our goal. If you

have not already done so you can donate to the Annual Diocesan Appeal by dropping your pledge envelope in the mail or in the collection basket and we will mail it to the Diocese. You can also donate online with payments being automatically withdrawn from your checking account or charged to your credit card. Go to davenportdiocese.org/annual-diocesan-appeal then click on the Donate Now button. If you have donated online before just login. If donating online is new: to make a one time donation put the total donation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal line at the Donation Frequency drop down menu choose one time then click the continue button. If you want to make recurring payments in the Annual Diocesan Appeal line put payment amount (NOT total donation) then choose how often you would like to make that donation; weekly, monthly or quarterly. Next choose the start and stop date of your payments and click continue. On the next screen you will enter your personal information please make sure you list St. Mary's West Point or St. Boniface as your Name of Parish. Choose how you want to pay: credit/debit card, checking or savings and fill in payment information. Next select a password then click the process button. **Remember:** If we exceed our goal the extra money will be returned to our parish!

Donations

1. Already created a profile?—"Log In" as Returning Member
2. To make **recurring** donations—Click "Create Profile"
3. To make a **one-time** donation and also have the ability to track your donation history—Click "Create Profile"
4. To make a **one-time** donation without tracking your donation history—Complete form below

Please contact the Diocese Of Davenport to make any changes to your recurring donation.

Annual Diocesan Appeal:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Covid-19 Davenport Diocese:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Diocese - other:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>

Annual Diocesan Appeal- Please put the amount of each donation, not the total pledge.

Total: \$0.00

Donation Frequency:

Consider Recurring Donations

Recurring donations provide a steady stream of support. It is a great way to manage charitable giving without the worry of missing a payment- you set the frequency, select the payment method and your gift continues to give over time.

Donation Start Date: mm/dd/yy

Donation End Date: (optional) mm/dd/yy

Log In [help](#)

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

Create Your Online Profile

**Advent
Retreat**

**Chris
Stefanick**

LIVING JOY

9 Rules that will change your life

Join Us: Signup for the Living Joy Retreat Starting on 11/28

Every success in life is meaningless without joy. Joy is God's dream for you. Heaven is called a "wedding banquet." And Jesus' whole mission was to share that joy with you. He said it himself. "I've told you these things so my joy may be in you." Think about that. The joy of GOD in YOU. The experience of that joy eternal starts now. And it doesn't start with a change in your circumstances but a change in you. The course will teach you how to Build new habits, Change your thinking, Live a more joyful life. This will happen with 9 simple rules.

GRATITUDE: In "Gratitude" Chris talks about how to not just give thanks more often, but how to transform your life by transforming your mind into one that gravitates toward gratitude.

SILENCE: In "Silence" Chris helps you see the "quiet killers" in your life for what they are, covers why you need silence for your happiness (and sanity) and talks about exactly how to get it.

LOVE YOURSELF: To have joy, you have to align your self talk with the Word of God. Chris shows you how.

ENGAGE YOUR BODY IN THE BATTLE FOR JOY: The science is mind blowing. The theology is clear. You are a body/soul "composite." And the journey to joy is incomplete if you don't know how to engage your body in it.

MAKE FRIENDS: A Harvard study on what makes people thrive into old age showed friendship as the #1 factor. But how do you create deep, lasting friendship?

REST: God's command to set aside a day from work caused a revolution that set His people free. Are you free? Are you intentional about rest? Chris shows you how.

SERVE: This isn't for "the advanced" or even the "especially gifted." And you don't need to do it for others, but for you. What's that look like in your life? Find out.

FRAME YOUR MIND WITH FAITH: Faith isn't just part of the picture. If it's going to give you unshakeable joy, it's gotta be the "frame" through which you see everything. But how do you live with that kind of faith?

It's completely free, and we wanted to let you know about it now so you can prepare to make this Advent prayerful, peaceful, and JOYFUL. Listen—with everything you've ever worked for in life, what you're really working for is JOY. So let's get intentional about THAT. Sign up now to make this Advent a life-changing experience! To Sign up go to the parish website and click Faith Formation then select Joy from the drop down menu or go to coaching.reallifecatholic.com/offers/T4bFm3qU/checkout?coupon_code=LIVINGJOY
This program begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, and is FREE!



St. Mary's has participated the in Christmas for Kids and Teens Collection for several years. We will once again help provide for low income families throughout North Lee County including families in Argyle, Denmark, Donnellson, Fort Madison, Houghton, Montrose, Pilot Grove, St. Paul, West Point and Wever. We will have a box in the Ossenbrink Center beginning in Mid-November for your gift donations. Donations should be for children through age 18 and should be unwrapped. If you would like to donate a gift card or make a monetary donation that can be dropped in the collection basket or placed in the locked drop box outside the parish office. Mid-December these donations will be delivered to the Christmas for Kids and Teens location. More information will be published in the church bulletin and on the parish website over the next few weeks. This will be our last year working with Christmas for Kids and Teens as Toys for Tots will begin serving Lee County in 2022 so the Christmas for Kids and Teens organization will be joining them next year.



As you head into the holiday season, don't forget you can help support an HTC student, St. Mary's and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools while shopping. Just stop by the HTC elementary building, order online by going to holytrinityschools.org/scrip or download the raise right app to your mobile device. Then you can purchase gift cards, for a variety of local and national retailers. Need groceries for a holiday gathering; pick up a Sonny's or HyVee gift card. Tired of cooking, grab a Brad's Pad certificate or a gift card to Buffalo Wild Wings. Need gas for all the extra running you will be doing get a BP gift card and fill up the tank. Need great gifts, pick up gift cards for national retailers like, Amazon, Old Navy, Game Stop or Target and many more. A portion of each sale goes to the tuition of an HTC student of your choosing or to St. Mary's church and a portion goes to the Holy Trinity Catholic school.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. If you already shop on Amazon you can sign up in 3 easy steps.

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. Select your charity—St. Mary of the Assumption West Point, IA
(You need to make sure you pick the right St. Mary's since there are several listed!)



Now start your holiday shopping. Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com. You only donate if shopping on this Amazon site.

Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

Double down on your charity by paying with an Amazon gift card purchased through the HTC Scrip program!



All Saints Mass

Monday, November 1st
 St. Mary's @ 5:30 pm |
 St. Boniface @ 7:00 pm

All Souls Mass

Tuesday, November 2nd
 St. Mary's @ 5:30 pm

Thanksgiving Mass

Thursday, November 25th
 St. Mary's @ 7:30 am

Christmas Eve Masses

Friday, December 24th
 St. Mary's @ 4:00pm
 St. Boniface @ 7:00pm
 St. Mary's @ 10:00pm

Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 25th
 St. Mary's @ 8:00am

Mary Mother of God

Friday, December 31st
 St. Boniface @ 5:30pm
Saturday, January 1st
 St. Mary's @ 8:00am

St. Boniface Reconciliation

Sunday, December 19th @ 11:30am

St. Mary's Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 1st @ 7:00pm
 Sunday December 12th @ 2:30pm

Weekly Confessions

Saturday @ 4:00pm St. Mary's

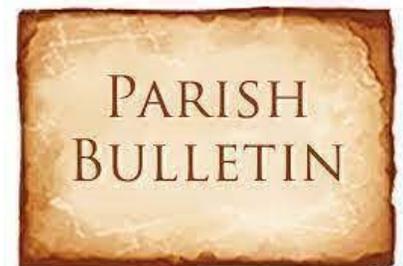


The Parish Office will be closed:
 Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th for Thanksgiving.
 Friday, December 24th—Sunday, January 2nd for Christmas.

If you need to drop off any paperwork or contributions you can use the parish drop box located next to the office front door.
 If you need to speak with Fr. Hoffman call the rectory 319-837-8120.

During the holidays the parish bulletin is due to the publisher early. Please make sure you have anything you would like included in the bulletin to Jen by Noon on the following deadlines.

- Nov. 21st Bulletin: Due Thursday, Nov. 11
- Nov. 28th Bulletin: Due Wednesday, Nov. 17
- Dec. 5th Bulletin: Due Wednesday, Nov. 24th
- Dec. 12th Bulletin: Due Friday, Dec. 3rd
- Dec. 19th Bulletin: Due Thursday, Dec. 9th
- Dec. 26th Bulletin: Due Wednesday, Dec 15th
- Jan. 2nd Bulletin: Due Tuesday, Dec 21st



Please email information to westpointstmary@diodav.org or drop it off at the parish office!