



St. Mary of the Assumption

109 4th Street, PO Box 68

West Point, Iowa 52656

319-837-6808

www.westpointstmary.org

St. Boniface

609 Washington St, PO Box 247

Farmington, Iowa 52626

Spring 2022



Our Lenten Journey of 40 days

Every year, Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where He fasted and where Satan tempted Him. Lent asks us to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

At the start of Lent, many of us get a cross on our foreheads from the ashes during a church service. Some places around the world use a small sprinkling of ashes on the top of our head. The ashes symbolize grief and the acceptance of our sinful state.

Maundy Thursday is recognized as the day before Jesus is crucified. It is believed to be the day Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples and most notably, washed their feet as a display of humility and love.

Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross. It is called "good" because it is part of God's plan for our salvation. God's good plan to redeem us from sin included the suffering of Jesus.

Easter Sunday is often referred to as the most important day in Christian history. Three days after His death, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus rose again, conquering the sin and death. Through Jesus, we have the opportunity to have eternal forgiveness for our sins, relationship with God, and eternity in heaven.

What is Lent and How Do We Celebrate it?

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year - Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer. Lent is more frequently observed as a solemn time of preparation for remembering of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

From the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday till Lent ends on Holy Thursday, Lent is traditionally a time of fasting or giving something up, known as abstinence. Lent gives us time to prepare our minds and hearts for remembering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Prayer is a large focus during Lent. During the 40 days, we seek God's forgiveness, accept His love and mercy, and repent, or turn from our sins. The act of fasting or abstaining from something, like our favorite food or activity, not only gives us time to pray but reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.

The History and Origin of Lent

So where does Lent come from and who started it? The Lenten season developed as part of the historical Christian calendar and is typically celebrated by Catholics and some mainline Protestant churches that follow a liturgical calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate

Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modeled after Christ's forty-day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to the God we have, through our own rebelliousness, hurt time and again. Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - and it wasn't pretty. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried (Rev. 21:4). *And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* Matthew 27:33-49

Practicing Lent Traditions

We can benefit from celebrating Lent. Here are some of the key elements of the Lenten season, along with some of the symbolism that comes with it. Many of these practices can be celebrated both individually and as a community.

Purple: Like Advent, the official color for Lent is purple. We also strip our churches bare of some of the usual decorations adorning the walls. Purple is the color of repentance for sins and also symbolizes the state of our souls outside the light of Christ. During this time, pray for those who do not know Christ and for those who have sinned gravely against Him.



Confession: Lent is a penitential season or expressed sorrow and repentance. The 40 days are set aside to really examine areas of recurring sin in our lives that prevent us from being conformed to God's Will. A good way to start an examination of conscience is by praying Psalm 139, verse 23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Fasting and Prayer: Fasting is a practice that has really gone by the wayside in many Christian circles. Yet, if done correctly, it can be a powerful time of renewing your relationship with God. Fasting can be found in both the Old Testament and the New, with Moses (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9,18), Elijah (1 Kings 19:8), and our Lord (Matthew 4:2) all participating in 40-day fasts. Fasting is a way of denying ourselves the

excesses of life so that we might be more attuned to the Lord's voice. It is also a way of disciplining yourself, strengthening your "spiritual muscles" so to speak so that when temptations arise in life, you are already used to saying "no" to your desires. And finally, fasting is also a way of participating, in a small way, in the sufferings of Christ and can be particularly powerful when accompanied by prayer and confession.

Meditating on Christ's Sacrifice for Humankind: In addition to periodic fasting and prayer, our scriptural meditations typically turn to the salvation offered to us through Christ's suffering. Read Old Testament Scriptures prophesying the suffering of Christ and the New Testament Gospel accounts.

Charity/Almsgiving: A very important element of the Lenten season is becoming aware of not only the suffering and sacrifice of Christ but also the suffering of others. Between now and Good Friday, choose one way you can increase your giving to those in need. It could be through extra financial offerings, donating goods you no longer need or use to charity, or increasing your personal time commitment to a ministry or cause close to your heart. For example our Religious Education families will be asked to donate unused items to be brought to class during Lent. This will encourage sacrifice as they learn to live with less. Lent is a time when Christians separate from the world; when we find out our faith is not just a feel-good, self-help religion but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who through their Lenten observance enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. The joy of Resurrection, as well as the promise of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.



Blessings to you,

Father Dennis Hoffman



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me. —Matthew 25:35

This Lent In Via youth ministry is partnering with Deacon Candidate Mike Linnebrink, the Diocese, and families from all of our parishes to create a fun and informative video series that will hopefully increase participation in the CRS Rice Bowl. CRS lent activities include family prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as well as helping families connect with other families and cultures across the world by cooking the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Meal Recipes.

Our Family and Youth Minister, Nathan, is acting as the character, “The Godfather” to hopefully get some laughs and get people’s attention at the beginning of the videos. The youth from our youth group will share information about Catholic Relief Services and the CRS Rice Bowl Lent activities that are available to families. As well as issues facing the three countries that are the focus of this year’s CRS spotlight: Guatemala, Bangladesh, and Rwanda. Several families from all of our parishes agreed to help with the video project by cooking the Lenten meals from the CRS spotlight countries and recording the family fun they have as they prepare, cook, and eat the meals. As families fast, pray, and give alms during Lent they will also connect with other families and cultures by cooking the meatless Lenten meal recipes as well as have an opportunity to give the extra money they saved by cooking the recipes to CRS. Families from our Parishes all across the community are participating in the project and represent all of the area school districts of Holy Trinity Catholic, Central Lee, Fort Madison, Van Buren, and Mt. Pleasant.

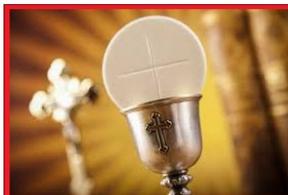
We hope that this project will communicate the worldwide impact of Catholic Relief Services, increase participation in the awesome CRS Rice Bowl Lent activities that are available for families, and raise awareness of the connections we have to our brothers and sisters all a round the world.

To view this video on youtube go to <https://youtu.be/kP65zOC581c>
Or go to the St. Mary’s website
or check it out on Facebook.

You can pick up a Rice Bowl in the back in church, or you can donate online at tinyurl.com/27fxtert



St. Mary and St. Boniface are still accepting Mass intentions for 2022. Intentions are \$5.00 per Mass and you may schedule up to six a year. (Up to three may be weekends.) Mass intentions over six per calendar year are sent to the Diocese for retired priests to say. Please call or stop by the parish office with your request or if you have any questions.



***Mass
Intentions***

Lent Eucharistic Adoration Schedule @ St. Mary of the Assumption 11AM – 12PM

“All are encouraged to drop in an spend and hour with the Lord.”

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ed Blindt Sr. Anita Blindt Donna Conrad Carol Fullenkamp Alice McCannon Helen Moeller Maureen Moeller Suzanne Vonderhaar	Bob Booten Mary Ann Booten Rita Holtz Maureen Kieler Maureen McGuire Mary Jane Pranger Jackie Pranger Velda Vonderhaar	Belinda Holland Nancy Hunold Diane Jennings Laverne Merschman Kevin Overton Mary Overton Dorothy Pollpeter Wilma Reil	Steve Conrad Sue Conrad Betty Ellison Patty Knight Bertha Rauenbuehler Jackie Schierbrock Martha Steffensmeier Phyllis Ward	Vicki Blint Larry Fedler Shirley Fraise Ben Link Leah Link Eleanor Menke

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday Fasting & Abstinence.	March 2nd	8:45 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	St. Mary (School Mass) St. Boniface St. Mary
Palm Sunday	April 10th	5:30 pm 8:00 am 10:30 am	St. Mary St. Mary St. Boniface
Holy Thursday	April 14th	5:30 pm 7:30 pm	St. Mary St. Boniface
Good Friday - A Strict Day of Fasting and Abstinence	April 15th (Parish Office Closed)	3:00 pm 5:30 pm	St. Mary St. Boniface
Easter Vigil	April 16th	8:30 pm	St. Mary
Easter Sunday	April 17th	8:00 am 10:30 am	St. Mary St. Boniface
Confessions	Every Saturday March 9th March 30th April 3rd April 10th	4:00 pm 7:00 pm 12:30 pm 2:30 pm 11:30 am	St. Mary, Ossenbrink Center St. Mary St. Mary (HTC Elementary) St. Mary St. Boniface
Weekday Masses	Tuesday's Wednesday's Thursday's Friday's	6:00 pm 8:45 am 7:30 am 5:30 pm	St. Boniface St. Mary (HTC School Mass) St. Mary St. Mary
Stations of the Cross	Tuesday's - <i>Soup Supper to follow</i> Friday's - <i>Followed by Potluck</i> Friday's - except March 18th	6:30 pm 6:00 pm 8:45 am	St. Boniface St. Mary St. Mary (HTC Elementary)



Save the Date

St. Mary's 180th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 11 Mass at 4:00 PM at the Church
followed by Dinner and games at City Park.



Pope Francis has called all Catholic Churches and organizations around the world to take part in the Synod. This Synod is intended as a **Synodal Process**. The aim of this synodal process is not to provide a temporary or one-time experience of synodality, but rather to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term.

9 Values for the Synod

A renewed encounter with Jesus: The Christian life is the result of an encounter with the loving and living God. This relationship is the foundation of our faith. The Synod is a moment for renewed encounter with the person of Jesus marked by joy and openness to how the Holy Spirit is calling us anew today.

Humble Listening: The Synod is not a debate or opinion poll. It is about listening, without judgment and investing in the conversation. This may plant seeds of faith for the Holy Spirit to work that can create a genuine and lasting impact.

Discernment: Discernment is an essential practice of the Christian life. Rooted in prayer & community, it is about determining what is and what is not of the Spirit. Discernment is fundamental to the Synod.

Openness to new Possibilities: We should not expect a transformation of Church teaching as a result of the Synod. And yet the Holy Spirit cannot be kept in a box. We must be open to a journey we can't anticipate, to new ways of being a more synodal church.

Learning by doing: The Synod is not a neat and tidy process. Pope Francis himself said that it will be "messy." Rather it is an open and dynamic process, it is a way of being Church.

Nimbleness in the process: The Synod is a framework for discernment, not a 10-step plan. As we live out the Synod we will discover new & richer ways the Holy Spirit is calling us to be Church in our local context.

Emphasis on the Local: In keeping with Catholic social traditions we believe in equipping and encouraging efforts at the most local level possible.

Evangelization: Our faith lives must always be outward facing. We must bring faith into all areas of our lives. We do this by drawing on the joy that we experience from our relationship with God.

Hear the Unheard: Most of the voices the church hears from are regularly practicing Catholics. We generally do not hear from youth and young adult Catholics, or the many on the margins of society. This synod is an opportunity to reach out to those we do not typically hear from.

As a part of this process St. Boniface has held a listening session and St. Mary's will be holding listening sessions in the near future. Please prayerfully consider attending a listening session and inviting others to join you. Please watch the parish bulletin or Facebook for more information.

Join Us!

IN VIA

Youth Group Sundays in West Point & St. Paul

- 3/6 Confirmation Retreat @ Ft. Madison
- 3/13 No Youth Group, Spring Break
- 3/20 Karaoke Night 6-8PM in St. Paul
- 3/27 Confirmation Mass 2PM @ St. John the Baptist
- 3/27 Youth Group 6PM @ Brad's Pad
- 4/3 ICYC 10:30AM @ Regina Center in Iowa City
- 4/9 Adult Parish Prom 7PM @ St. James Parish Hall
- 4/10 Youth Group 6PM in West Point
- 4/17 No Youth Group, Easter
- 4/24 Youth Group 6PM in West Point

Text Nathan @ (319)669-9075 for more info

Seeking Ministry Volunteers



If you could help out at any of our Holy Week and Easter services, Thursday, April 14th—Sunday, April 17th it would be greatly appreciated. We will need; Ushers, Gift Bearers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers and Facebook Live coordinators for these Masses.

To sign up for a ministry at St. Mary please call the parish office or go to westpointstmary.org and click on the stewardship button. You can then submit your name along with your Mass and ministry preference.

To sign up for a ministry at St. Boniface please call Mary Witting.



3 ON 3

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**MARCH 15TH, APRIL 19TH
& MAY 17TH**

- 3 Activities**
- 11 AM**
Eucharistic Adoration @ St Mary's
 - 12 PM**
Lunch in the Ossensbrink Center
 - 1 PM**
Bingo @ the Library



3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



End of the Month Meals

St. Mary's needs couples to help coordinate an End of the Month Meal two evenings a year. The End of the Month Meal program provides dinner for those in need at the end of each month at St. John's UCC in Fort Madison.

A variety of groups, including St. Mary of the Assumption, provide 1 meal every other month. Food is provided and we have volunteers to help prepare and serve. You would be responsible for planning the meal and coordinating your volunteers to help cook and serve the meal.

Please contact Rebecca for more information 837-6808.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us for 1, 2 or all 3 activities
No registration required.
No cost to participate!
Transportation available!

BINGO

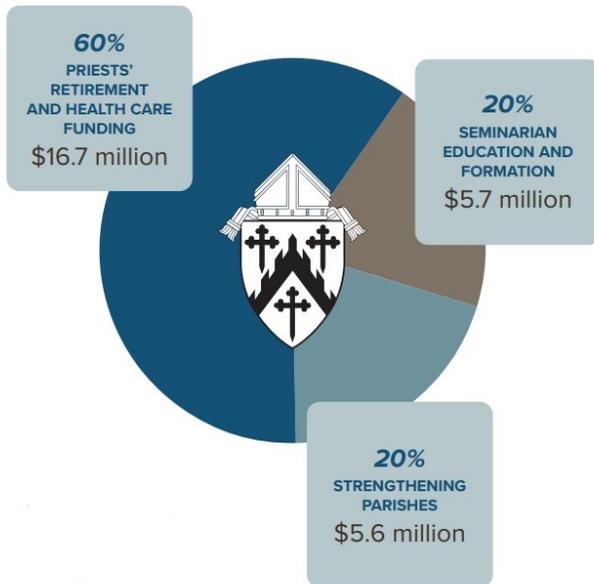
2	21	32	46	66
15	30	44	58	70
5	29	FREE SPOT	48	74
6	16	33	52	68
10	26	45	53	63

UPON *this* ROCK



Diocese of Davenport Capital Campaign

Supporting Our Priests - Strengthening Our Church



The Diocese of Davenport is kicking off a Capital Campaign. The public goal is set at \$28 million. This campaign will be rolled out in every parish in the Diocese over the next year. St. Mary and St. Boniface are in the first wave of parishes beginning this spring. Father Hoffman along with a few members of each parish will lead the fundraising effort at our parishes. The Goal for St. Mary of the Assumption Parish is set at \$203,000. The Goal for St. Boniface is set at \$109,000.

What will these funds be used for? Sixty percent of the funds raised will go toward the health care and retirement costs of priests, 20 percent toward the funding of seminarians' education, and 20 percent returned to the parish for projects of its choosing. If a parish reaches its goal, 80 percent of any additional funds raised will be returned to the parish.

How many retired priests are there? How many more are nearing retirement? As of late 2021, there were 98 diocesan priests, 39 of them retired. Another 33 were age 60 or above, which is expected to put great pressure on the retirement

system operated by the Priests' Aid Society. Put another way: 73% of the diocese's priests either were retired or within a decade of retirement age.

Do the health costs apply only to retired priests? No. Health insurance for active priests is also covered.

Will the Priests' Aid Society assessments of parishes go down? The campaign plan will freeze or reduce the assessments by up to 25 percent for at least five years, depending on the overall funds raised in the Diocese.

I thought the Annual Diocesan Appeal paid for seminarians' costs. It doesn't? The ADA does pay a small portion of seminarians' costs, but the amounts raised through the ADA, other donations and investments haven't kept up with the dramatic increases in education costs.

Seminarians are discerning whether to give their life to the priesthood, whether the Holy Spirit is calling them to give a lifetime in service to the Lord and to the faithful. The diocese wants to allow this discernment to occur without money being a determining factor for the seminarian or his family.

Will these funds be at risk from any future lawsuits against the diocese? No. The funds will not go to the Diocese of Davenport. Any donations will go to the "Upon This Rock Campaign" and will be under the management of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport, which is a separate legal entity from the diocese.

Where will donors send their gifts, and where will the money be kept? Donors' gifts and pledges, that can be spread over 3 year, will be handled by the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Davenport, who manages funding for seminarians' education. The foundation will disburse funds to the Priests' Aid Society for priests' retirement and health care costs and to the parishes for their share.

Campaign Prayer

O God, our Rock and our Refuge,
through the ministry of your priests,
called from among your priestly people,
you reveal the constancy of your loving care.

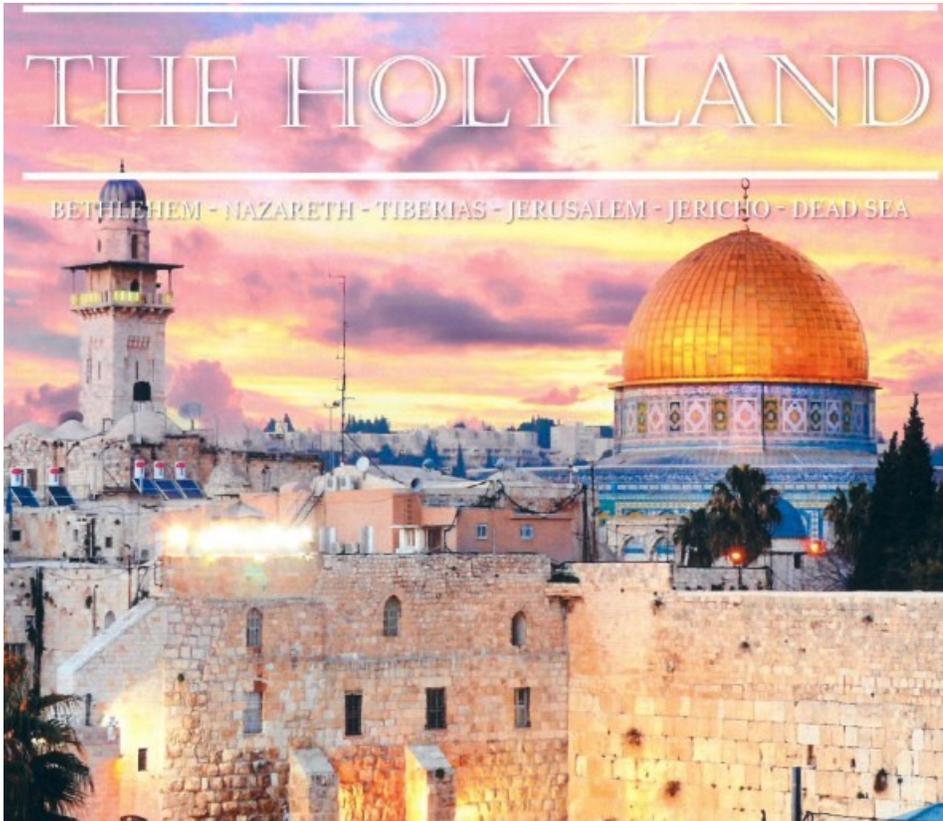
In gratitude for what has been,
grant us generous hearts
that we might support our priests in their twilight years
as they supported us by their faithful service.

In joy for what is now,
grant us generous hearts
that we might support the work of our priests and parishes
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

In hope for what will be,
grant us generous hearts
that we might support the seminarians
who will serve as priests of the Diocese of Davenport.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Join Fr Dennis Hoffman and Fr Tim Regan
on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land September 9-20, 2022



This trip includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare from Des Moines, Iowa
- 1 checked bag, 1 carry on and 1 personal item.
- 10 nights accommodations (7 nights in Bethlehem and 3 nights in Nazareth/Tiberias)
- All Activities
- Meals per the Itinerary
- Tour guides/escorts
- Spiritual director

Cost is \$3899 per person

For more information you can pick up a brochure with a detailed Itinerary in the breezeway at St. Mary's Church or the Church Office.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS



Confirmation: Confirmation Retreat will be held on March, 6th at McAleer Hall from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Confirmation will be held Sunday, March 27th at St. John Church in Houghton, at 2:00pm. This will include 9th grade students from St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Boniface and St. Alphonsus. Confirmation practice will be that morning.

First Communion: First Communion retreat is scheduled for March 6th at the HTC Elementary Cafeteria in West Point.

St. Mary's First Communion will be held Sunday, April 23rd at 5:30pm Mass with practice that morning at 10:00 am.

St. Boniface First Communion will be Sunday, April 24th at 10:30 am Mass with practice that morning at 9:30 am..



Deacon ORDINATION

St. Boniface parishioner Mike Linnenbrink is nearing completion of his 5 year Deaconate program. As he nears his ordination on July 9th at the Cathedral in Davenport, please pray for continued strength from the Holy Spirit and ongoing discernment as he is called to serve his Catholic community. Mike will then preach his first Homily at St. Boniface at 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, July 24th.