



 Immaculate Conception  
Catholic Church

5 May 2024

*Today's Readings Pg 152*  
Acts of the Apostles 10:25-48  
Psalm 98:1-4  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17

[Jesus said,] "This is my commandment:  
love one another as I love you."

JOHN 15:12



## We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight.* So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ●

### Reflect

**Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.**

## Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

Joan Rourke, April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie,  
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmittke, Charlie Corey,  
Mitch Sauerbrei, Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,  
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,  
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,  
Elaine Ernst, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,  
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;  
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts  
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †  
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and  
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and  
healing rise like incense  
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



### ► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

### ► I C Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:

Please contact Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

### ► Sacrament Of The Sick ~ Anointing for the seriously ill or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743, or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the Sacristy before or after Mas

### ► Baptism Class For Parents:

All parents who wish to have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.



### ► I C Cemetery – contact the parish office

### ► Funeral Dinners: Group #2 May, June, July,, & August

We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

#### I C STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577

email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

IC Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

IC Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

Mailing address: P O BOX 505 Fairbank IA 50629

email: icfairbank@gmail.com

website: <http://icfairbank.weebly.com/>  
Archdiocesan website: [www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org)

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 [kim.weepie@gmail.com](mailto:kim.weepie@gmail.com)

DRE Office PH :319-635-2211

located in the Parish Center at 405 Fairbank St

Mailing address: P O Box 505, Fairbank IA 50629

Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

PH: cell 319-296-8459

or email [jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com](mailto:jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com)



May 5, 2024

### “Love one another”

A small girl was walking in the fields some distance from her home when two strangers appeared and asked her to pick them some fruit. Brought up to show courtesy to adults, the nine-year-old hurried on her way. Only when she reached the forest did she realize it was a ruse. “I saw two persons behind me,” she later recalled. “One of them briskly grabbed me with one hand, while the other pulled out a knife from his belt and held it to my side. He told me, ‘If you cry, you’ll die! Follow us,’ with a loud voice. After a forced march, the girl was sold as a slave. “Bakhita,” her captors called her—Arabic for “Lucky One.” She was hardly lucky.

In later years, however, she gladly accepted the name, and wished for an opportunity to forgive her captors. She even thanked God for the good that had come from her suffering. “If I were to meet those who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me,” she wrote, “I would kneel and kiss their hands. For if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today.”

Born near Darfur, in southern Sudan, around 1869, the saint we know as Josephine Bakhita belonged to a close-knit family of eight living children, including a twin sister. Although they were animists who worshipped divine spirits in natural objects, even as a child Bakhita longed to know God.

Her sister also fell captive to slave traders, and although Africans were no longer being shipped to the New World, there was still a profitable trade industry in Africa and the Middle East. At one point Bakhita managed to flee her captors, but was captured and sold again. At age twelve, she was sold in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, to an agent of the Italian consul, or diplomatic representative. She was taken to Genoa, Italy, where she was adopted by the Michieli family and exposed to Christianity.

Bakhita was baptized Giuseppina, and eventually granted her freedom. In 1896, she joined the Conossian Daughters of Charity, and for the next fifty years, served her community as a cook, seamstress, and portress of their houses in Venice, Verona, and Schio. She was beloved by her students for her sweet nature and melodious voice. After a long and painful illness, she died in 1947. Pope St. John Paul II canonized this first Sudanese saints on October 1, 2000 as a witness to evangelical reconciliation and a model of freedom.

We hear the word “love” used 19 times in today’s second reading, Gospel Acclamation, and Gospel reading. The *Catechism* calls charity “the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God” (1822). Love is the movement of our will toward the good. Bakhita fell in love with God, and expressed that love in forgiveness of her captors and the embrace of consecrated life. Her charity toward her fellow sisters, children, and visitors to the community was love in action.

We honor Mary, the model of charity, this month. May her prayers inspire us to love God first and our neighbor as ourselves. **God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood**

## Parish Financial Support

Apr 28-May2

Budget \$1328  
 Offertory \$251  
 Building Fund \$15  
 Donut Sunday \$121.60

*Thank You!*  
 FOR YOUR DONATION

April 2024

Online Giving

Budget \$2130  
 Pledge Install \$8  
 Easter \$100  
**Total \$2238**

*Congratulations to our children who are receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time today Sunday May 5, 2024*

**IC Church**

Hadley Brown  
 Daxton Destival  
 Isaac Kleitsch  
 Elsie Weepie  
 Samuel Rechkemmer  
 Perry Bay Estrada



**Sacred Heart**

Gabriel Davis  
 Toula Ehlers  
 Kailani Taylor  
 Brantley Nolan  
 Carly Recker  
 Adalynn Little  
 Bentley Weig

*May their joy in Christ grow and never diminish as they continue their journey of a lifetime with the Risen Jesus in their hearts and ever at their side.*

May 2024



TODAY!!!! – Peanut Butter Sunday  
 Mon May 6 ~ Fairbank City Wide Clean-up Day  
 Tues May 7 ~ Card Bingo – Assisted Living 1:30PM  
 Wed May 8 ~ Faith Formation Mtg 7PM  
 Thurs May 9 ~ Parish Life Mtg 9:30AM  
 Thurs May 9 ~ KC Mtg 7PM  
 Fri May 10 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party  
 Sat May 11 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party  
 Sun May 12 ~ Class of 2024 Graduation Mass  
 Pastoral Council Election after Mass  
 Wed May 15 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM  
 May 16-20 ~ Office Closed  
 Wed May 22 ~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM  
 Fri May 24 ~ Last Day of School at WV  
 Fri May 24 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party  
 Sat May 25 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party



*We offer our sympathy to  
 The Family and Friends of  
 Norbert Delagardelle (Bill's Dad)  
 & John Farmer (Janice Martin's Dad)*

*“and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”*

## Mass Intentions

Sun	May 5	8:30 AM	IC	For the People
				EM: Joe & Cheryl Kleitsch
				Altar Servers: Rachel & Wally Kaufman
				Lector: Lori Beierschmitt
Sun	May 5	10:30AM	SH	Felipe & Consuelo Ledesma† Daryl & Frances Potter†
Mon	May 6	8:30AM	SH	Larry Thole †
Wed	May 8	8:30AM	IC	Donnie Brandt†
Thurs	May 9	8:30 AM	SH	For the Sick
Fri	May 10	12:00 Noon	SH	Kaye Frazier†
Sat	May 11	4:30PM	SH	Robert & Mildred Michelst†
Sun	May 12	8:30 AM	IC	Donald, Ramona & Josh Menuey†

M: Deacon Jim EM: Julie Delagardelle  
 Altar Servers: Jensen Beck & Alivia Weepie  
 Lectors: Senior Class of 2024

Sun May 12 10:30AM SH For the People

**May 19, 2024 8:30 AM Mass**

EM: Anita Destival & Diane Rourke  
 Altar Servers: Cameron & Reagan Szurley  
 Lector: Kelly Cummings

**May Ushers and Greeters**

Bob Bellis, Adam Kaufman, Mike Buenzow,  
 Greg & Lori Beierschmitt, Tom Kleitsch

**May Money Counters**

Glenda Kane, Lynn Plaster

**Pastoral Council Election May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Elections Nomination Forms Due Today**



*Enjoy the beautiful voices of our choir!!*



**80+ Birthday**

May 3 Elaine Ernst

May 9 Marilyn Steggall

**50+ Years Anniversary**

May 6 Denny & Paula Farrington

May 16 John & MaryLee Even

May 25 Curt & Kay Vorwald

**Heart to Heart!!!**

*Solution focused program empowering courageous women to stand on their feet independently in faith and dignity to provide for themselves and their baby.*

*Baby bottles are provided at either entrance*

*or during the week in the hall for your*

*spare change or you can make out a check to*

**Mary's Inn Maternity Home. NOT IC Church**

*Today and next Sunday please bring your contribution to church*

*Or drop off at the office during business hours. The goal is*

*\$2500 for this year and fundraiser will end*

*Mother's Day weekend. (May 12)*

*Another way to contribute is mail a check to*

**Mary's Inn Maternity Home**

**PO Box 3338**

**Dubuque, IA 52004-3338**

**Memo line IC Fairbank**



*Any questions, please contact Duane or Carma Schmidtke*

## Gospel Reading

*John 15:9-17*

### Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

**Question of the Week:** Jesus commanded us to love one another. Who is most in need of your love and kindness right now? How can you be more loving to those most in need this week? Choose one of the following activities to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- God loves, forgives and welcomes everyone. Think about ways that your family can love, forgive and welcome others. On a sheet of paper create three columns with the following headings: Love, Forgiveness and Welcome. Brainstorm with your family ways you can reach out to others. Write the responses under the appropriate headings. Post the paper in a prominent place in your home.
- Make a list of newcomers to your community. Choose one family and think of a way you can welcome them.
- Think of a family whose national or ethnic heritage is different from yours. Talk with them about their family customs and celebrations

#### MONDAY

May 6

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26–16:4a

#### TUESDAY

May 7

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

#### WEDNESDAY

May 8

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 17:15,  
22–18:1

Jn 16:12–15

#### THURSDAY

May 9

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

#### FRIDAY

May 10

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

#### SATURDAY

May 11

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

#### SUNDAY

May 12

*Ascension  
of the Lord*

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23 or

Eph 4:1–13 or

4:1–7, 11–13

Mk 16:15–20



