



IMMACULATE
— CATHOLIC CHURCH —
CONCEPTION

03 March 2024

Today's Readings Pg 76
Ezekiel 36:23-26
Psalm 19:8-11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect
What might be cluttering your life right now?



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

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

April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie, Elaine Ernst,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Norm Pint, Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Leona Kleitsch, 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 #3 Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec**
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

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 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



March 3, 2024

“The Ten Commandments”

“In those days, God delivered all these commandments” (Ex. 20:1). The Ten Commandments are the most famous laws on earth. They date back centuries, and are part of every Christian curriculum. You know them: There is only one God, keep holy the Sabbath, you shall not kill, steal, or covet, etc. We will cover these in more detail later in the year, but this weekend's first reading from Exodus is a great opportunity to look at the Commandments.

The Catechism opens the section on the Commandments with the story of the young man who approached Jesus with a question, “Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?” (Mt. 19:16) He is eager and open to learn from the Master. So far, so good. To the young man who asked this question, Jesus answers first by reminding him that God alone is the source of goodness. Then he tells the young man, “If you would enter life, keep the commandments” (CCC 2052). This is basic. We will not gain eternal life apart from or around the commandments. They are keys to the pearly gates.

When someone asks Jesus which commandment in the Law is the greatest (there were 613 to choose), he responds by picking out the two most important: “You shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, and with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law the prophets” (Mt. 22: 37-40). (2055) God is not the God of half measures. He wants it all! Jesus perfects the Law.

The recent Alabama Supreme Court decision declaring fertilized embryos conceived in *in vitro* fertilization to be people was correct. This controversial decision recognized the humanity of embryonic life. Each person has the right to be conceived and born in a natural way (*in vitro* violates this right). In addition, excess embryos, conceived in the *in vitro* process, are often discarded or destroyed in the process. This is a mass extermination of innocent human life. The *Catechism* here is clear when it states, “Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are *gravely immoral*. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child's right to be born of a father and mother known to him, and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses' 'right to become a father and a mother only through each other' (CCC 2376).

It continues: “Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that 'entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists, and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person'” (2377).

In sum, the Church teaches that human life is a sacred gift, which comes about through the intimate natural acts of husband and wife. There is no substitute for this natural process. While the desire for a family is commendable, couples may not use any means to achieve this goal. They, like all of us, are bound by natural law. Adoption is one option for those unable to achieve pregnancy. Infertility is a cross, but Lent teaches us the saving value of this holy instrument. More on the Commandments in the weeks ahead.

God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood

Parish Financial Support

Feb 25-29

Budget	\$2222
Offertory	\$362
Building Fund	\$40
Stations of the Cross	\$500

thank you!

Feb 2024

Online Giving

Budget	\$1490
Pledge Install	\$8
Building Fund	\$25
Total	\$1523

March 2024

Sun Mar 3 ~ Donut Sunday hosts 5th & 9th Grades
~ Peanut Butter Sunday



~ Lenten Book Study after 8:30AM Mass

Tues Mar 5 ~ Card bingo at Parkview 1:30PM

Wednesdays ~ March 6 thru April 17 IC Parish Hall

~ New Study Group for Moms

After 8:30AM Mass 9:15-10:15AM

Come join us for a fascinating journey of discovery.

Sun Mar 10 ~ Daylight Savings time begins

~ **Anointing of the Sick after Mass**

Thurs Mar 14~ Parish Life Mtg 9:30AM Parish Hall

~ KC Meeting Parish Hall 7PM

Tues Mar 19~ Fairbank Community Blood Drive 2-5PM

American Legion Hall

Sun Mar 17~ Donut Sunday hosts Faith Formation

Wed Mar 20 ~Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM

~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM

~ Faith Formation Mtg 7PM

Fri Mar 22 ~ IC Fish Fry Parish Hall 4:30PM-7:30PM

Signup Sheets are available in the east entrance.

Sat Mar 23 ~ Blaire Smith Baptism 11:00AM

Easter Schedule

Sun Mar 24 ~ Communal Penance Service 3-5PM SH

Mon Mar 25 ~ Confessions SH 5:30-6:30PM

Wed Mar 27 ~ Confessions IC 5:30-6:30PM

Thurs ~ Mar 28 Holy Thursday IC Church 7:00 PM

~Confessions after 7PM Mass IC

Fri ~ Mar 29 Good Friday IC Church 12:00 Noon

Sacred Heart 5:30PM

~ Confessions after 5:30PM Good Friday Mass SH

Sat ~ Mar 30 Holy Saturday Sacred Heart 8:00PM

Sun ~ Mar 31 Easter Service IC Church 8:30 AM

Sacred Heart 10:30 AM

Third Sunday of Lent



Giving thanks for Our Wonderful Choir

Sun Mar 3 8:30AM IC For the People

EM: Joe & Cheryl Kleitsch

Servers: Ella Weepie, Jensen Beck

Lector: Kelly Cummings

Sun Mar 3 10:30AM SH Don & Lola Jean Woods†

Mon Mar 4 8:30AM SH Gus Aubrey†

Wed Mar 6 8:30AM IC Clarence & Alice Shannon†

Thurs Mar 7 8:30AM SH Virginia Keppler†

Friday Mar 8 Noon SH Trevor Burrows †

Friday Mar 8 5:30PM SH For the People

Sat Mar 9 4:30PM SH Deacon Richard Gehrke†

Sun Mar 10 8:30AM IC Pat Rourke †

M: Deacon Jim EM: Glenda Kane

Servers: Marshall Weepie, Alivia Weepie

Lector: Betty Salisbury

Sun Mar 10 10:30AM SH For the People

Sunday, Mar 17, 2024, 8:30 AM Mass

EM: Anita Destival, Kelly Galleger

Servers: Wally Kaufman, Rachel Kaufman

Lector: Jean Bellis

March Ushers and Greeters

Bob Bellis, Tom Kleitsch,

Joe & Dianne Rubino, Richard Rundle

March Money Counters

Glenda Kane & Lynn Plaster

Church handicap door will be open

during office hours Monday thru Thurs 8-3

Need someone to help with changing colors for the altar table during the church year. Please let the office know if you would be willing to help.

Thanks for your continued support!!

Stations of the Cross Project

\$500 will get a plaque of your choice for the station you would like to sponsor.



YOU'RE INVITED!



~ Women & Identity ~

By Adele Ahlberg Calhoun & Tracey Bianchi \$10.00 each. Can be ordered thru the office.

Tuesdays, March 12th to April 30th (8 weeks). IC Parish Hall 9:00am or 6:30pm

Contact Info: Carma Schmidtke 319-240-2495

If you are new to our parish or just visiting- **WELCOME!!!**
If you would like officially to claim Immaculate Conception as your Parish Home- we would love to have you!!! Contact the parish office (319)635-2211 for info and to pick up a registration form. You can also go to the parish website to register. Look under the Registration Forms tab to find the form.

<http://icfairbank.weebly.com/>

If you wish to donate toward the **Easter flowers** please complete the form below and put it in the collection, mail, or bring to the office no later than **Wed. March 27.**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Contact Name & Ph: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Gospel Reading
John 2:13-25

Jesus drives out the moneychangers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

MONDAY

March 4
Lenten Weekday
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab
Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY

March 5
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34-43
Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY

March 6
Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5-9
Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY

March 7
Lenten Weekday
Jer 7:23-28
Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY

March 8
Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2-10
Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY

March 9
Lenten Weekday
Hos 6:1-6
Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY

March 10
Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21

Knights of Columbus Omelet Breakfast & CDA Bake Sale

Sun, Mar 3 8AM - 12 PM St. Athanasius, Jesup Free Will Offering

Readlyn Fireman Breakfast Fundraiser

Sun, Mar 3 8AM - 12 PM Grumpy's Event Center, Readlyn
Free will offering Scrambled Eggs, Rindy, Sausage, Cinnamon rolls.

Aurora Legion & Auxiliary

Sun Mar 3 & 17 Sunday Breakfast, 8AM-12 Noon
Pancakes, Sausage, biscuits & gravy, ham scrambled eggs, juice, coffee, and milk

March 8 - Columbus Club, Oelwein

4:30-7PM; Alaskan Pollock, Baked Potatoes, French Fries, Coleslaw, Baked Beans

March 22 - IC Church Parish Hall, Fairbank 4:30-7:30PM

Cod, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, dessert.

Adults \$15.00 10-6 yrs. \$7 5 & Under Free

Dine In and Carry Out Available!!!



**CHURCH IS NOT
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,
IT'S A FAMILY
YOU BELONG TO.**

@NAVCRUMORS

