**Message From Father John**

I am pleased to inform you that the advertised Cathedral staff position for a secretary/bookkeeper has been filled by Justin Carrick. He and his wife, Gretchen, are the parents of five children. Justin comes with a wealth of experience and a BA degree in business. He served as business manager at St. Mary’s Church in Greenville, Wisconsin, and as bookkeeper at the parish school there. He was also the business manager/secretary for Mount Tabor Retreat Center in Menasha, Wisconsin. Justin and his wife met some years ago at the World Youth Day attended by the pope in Sydney, Australia. I spoke directly with references and past employers, all of whom gave Justin high ratings. He will begin his ministry with us in early September. Close to 28 candidates applied for the position. I am grateful to Nancy McCarthy and Peter Relyea, who have consented to assist Justin in this transition.

I have been in contact with the Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization over the summer. The diocese has suggested that—with the COVID-19 virus uncertainty, and with the changes in the city school system—the Cathedral parish’s RE Ministry this year be part of a Faith Formation Program for students and families, which would replace the Cathedral’s weekly classes on Thursday nights. This new RE format would take place on Sunday mornings at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. This time would allow families to attend Mass and RE sessions on the same day, saving time and transportation costs. The content of the sessions will revolve around the Lord’s Prayer and how it leads us to discipleship in relationship with Jesus. At-home activities are also being prepared as a follow-up to the Sunday morning sessions. More information will be shared in future bulletins. This new RE year will begin in early October.

Today’s gospel finds Peter offering a profession and confession of faith. He testifies of Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” In the midst of the COVID-19 virus, damaging storms, and uncertainties as to how the new school year will evolve, we can place our trust in Jesus, the Son of God, to journey with us, assuring the safety and inner peace this world cannot give.

Thanks to Father Ambrose, who is responsible for all the weekend sacramental activities while I am in Peoria, Illinois, to preside at a wedding. I will make my retreat and take some vacation time in September, as usual. Best wishes to all who begin a new school year this week.

_Nice things & blessings!_
WELCOME TO ST. AMBROSE CATHEDRAL
Newcomers are asked to register at the Parish Office during business hours, 8:30am-4:30pm weekdays. If you cannot come during these hours, please call for an appointment. Parishioners who are leaving our parish family or moving to a new address are asked to notify the Parish Secretary.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES
Pastor | Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines
Most Reverend Bishop William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Rector
Rev. John O. Bertogli | 515.288.7411, ext 205
Associate Pastor
Rev. Ambrose Ladu | 515.288.7411, ext 204
Deacons
Deacon Francis Chan, Deacon Mike McCarthy, Deacon Jim Obradovich, Deacon Chris Rohwer, Deacon Ly Pao Yang
Secretary (Interim)
Lani McDonald | 515.288.7411, ext 201
Business Manager/Bookkeeper
Peter Relyea | 515.288.7411, ext 200
Refugee Ministry
Father Ambrose Ladu | 515.288.7411, ext 204
Deacon Francis Chan, National Advisor for American Sudanese Catholics | 515.210.4444
Director of Music & Sacrament of Marriage
Debbie Rohrer | 515.288.7411, ext 300
Vicar of Youth Faith Formation
Father Ambrose Ladu | 515.288.7411, ext 204
Youth Faith Formation Associates
Deacon Jim Obradovich | 515.554.1072
Catherine Swoboda | 515.943.9398
Maintenance Engineer
Bud Kephart | 515.229.9558
RCIA Director
Vern Rash | dsmrash@msn.com
Holy Family School
Marty Flaherty, Principal | 515-262-8025
Fr. John O. Bertogli, Canonical Administrator
Rob Ferguson, David Powell, Martin Nawl, Board of Education Members
Dowling High School Liaisons
Vern Rash, Fr. John O. Bertogli

PARISH COMMITTEES
Finance Council
Tim Sitzmann, Parish Trustee, Dr. Teri Wahlig, Parish Trustee, Cory Millmier, Ramona Peterson, Angela Burke Boston, Rick Thompson, Sol Rosenbaum
Pastoral Visioning Council
Antonio Bañuelos, Angela Burke Boston, George Brucks, Deacon Francis Chan, Dr. Barbara Decker, Chao Ly, Chris Rohwer, Claudia Schickler, Samol Thlang, Martin Nawl, Margaret Nian Mang, Michael Lian, Vaida Gadum, Nasir Kemi, Paul Saybehson
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Marilyn Sharp | 515.707.8642
Knights of Columbus
Joseph Mercer, Grand Knight
Paul Dupey, Financial Secretary
If you are interested in becoming a Knight, please contact Joseph Mercer at 712.730.0767. Visit our website at: sites.google.com/site/kc15336/home

OFFICE OF YOUTH CATECHESIS
To inquire about Youth Faith Formation programs at St. Ambrose Cathedral, please call Father Ambrose Ladu, Vicar of Youth Faith Formation, at 515.288.7411, ext 204, or email ladujohn@gmail.com. You may also contact the Religious Education Office at 515.265.4097; Deacon Jim Obradovich at 515.554.1072 or obradovich.jim@gmail.com; or Catherine Swoboda at 515.943.9398.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION FOR AUGUST 23

The Choice of Stewardship
What does it mean to be a good steward? Does it mean to be an active parishioner, or something more? Are we better stewards because we give more in terms of our money and time to our parish, or are we called to do even more than that?

The truth is that stewardship is a way of life. We are not simply called to be active parishioners, but instead be active disciples all the time. In fact, what we learn to do in our parish should serve as preparation for the mission field of the world. What have we really done if we only act like disciples of Jesus Christ while we are assembled with others who claim to be the same?

The choice before us is to give of ourselves in all aspects of our day and life. The call of Jesus will come in our everyday lives with our co-workers, family, and friends more often than it will within our parish community. First, if we can’t become good stewards when we are among those who proclaim Jesus as Lord, how will we be able to do so when we are with those who are non-believers? Second, when our muscles of gratitude, generosity, and graciousness are strengthened within our parish community, we are more able to meet the challenges of this world. However, we do not become good stewards by accident. We must always choose to live this way. What will you choose?

—Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

RCIA: AN INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM
Wish to learn more about the Catholic faith, or have questions about becoming Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that can prepare you to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church by celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. For details, please email Vern Rash, RCIA Director, at dsmrash@msn.com, or call the Parish Office at 515.288.7411, ext 201.

PARISH TITHING SUPPORT
August 9 & 16, 2020—$10,484
**SHIIP Program Assists Seniors with Insurance Planning**

Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is a federally-funded program operated in Iowa through the Department of Insurance. The program’s mission is to provide trained volunteer counselors to assist seniors, disabled persons on Medicare, and those about to turn 65 navigate through the complex world of Medicare.

Counselors assist, on a no-fee basis, those about to enroll in Medicare by helping them to select Medigap plans and choose between regular Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans, and by aiding them in selecting and enrolling in a prescription drug plan (Medicare Part D).

Four downtown Des Moines congregations are members of The Bridge, which is a sponsor organization for SHIIP. If you are a member of one of these congregations and would like assistance, you can call SHIIP directly at 800-351-4664. A volunteer counselor will then contact you to help make appropriate Medicare decisions.

**Delicious Recipes from Your Parish Family**

The St. Ambrose Parish Cookbook, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is now available for purchase. Pick up your copy by contacting George Brucks at george.brucks@yahoo.com or 515-277-1347, or by visiting the Parish Office. Cookbooks are $10 each, with profits supporting the needs of our parish.

Thank you for your support!

**Vocation Prayer | Diocese of Des Moines**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Give to the People of the Diocese hearts open
To the Call of Your Holy Spirit.
Help us Work Together with William, our Bishop,
To Cultivate a Culture of Vocation.
Inspire our Young People to Give Generously
Of Themselves and the
Courage to Follow their Vocation in Life.
In the Spirit of Faith, Love, and Sacrifice,
Help our Parents Rejoice when their Children
Are Called in Service of Your Church.
May the Parishes of Southwest Iowa
Support those Called to Priesthood,
Diaconate, Lay Ministry, and Consecrated Life.
Sustain our Faith which Calls us
To Walk in the Footsteps of Christ.
Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth,
Patroness of our Des Moines Diocese, pray for us.
Amen

For inquiries about becoming a priest or a sister, please visit www.vocationsonline.com

**Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments: Everyday Stewardship Reflection For August 30**

**The Vision of Stewardship**

I love the original movie *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, “He lived happily ever after.” As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka’s is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can’t have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don’t be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.

—Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPI

**Christ Our Life Conference Update**

Organizations all over the world are finding new ways to safely hold their events. After rigorous discussions with various leaders, including with Wells Fargo Arena and Bishop William Joensen of the Diocese of Des Moines, the decision has been made to hold the Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference, as scheduled, the weekend of September 26-27. Precautions range from reducing attendance by more than half our typical numbers, to offering livestreaming as a new ticket choice for attendees and for international speakers. Please find our safe planning details and attendance options at ChristOurLifeIowa.com.

**In Need of Prayer?**

Please let us pray for you, your loved ones, or anyone you know who is in need of prayers. The St. Ambrose Prayer Ambassadors have expanded the ways in which you can reach our Prayer Chain to make your prayer request. Contact Debbie Rohrer at 515.288.7411, ext 300, or rohrerdebbie2@gmail.com; or the Parish Office at 515.288.7411, ext 201. Thank you!
**Mass Intentions**

**August 22, Saturday**
4:00pm The Goodwin Family

**August 23, Sunday**
8:30am Marvin Pomerantz
10:30am For the Parish

**August 24, Monday**
12:10pm Dwayne Reed

**August 25, Tuesday**
12:10pm Angela Gibbons

**August 26, Wednesday**
12:10pm Rosemary Inman

**August 27, Thursday**
12:10pm Katherine Ochylski

**August 28, Friday**
12:10pm Dr. Michael Quinlan
5:30pm For the Parish

**August 29, Saturday**
4:00pm Stuart Johnsrud
8:30am Pat & Betty Sullivan
10:30am For the Parish

**Mass Readings for the Week of August 23**

**Sunday:** Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 3-6, 8 [8bc]/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

**Monday:** Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

**Tuesday:** 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Mt 23:23-26

**Wednesday:** 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 [1]/Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [1]/Mt 24:42-51

**Friday:** 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 [5]/Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Mk 6:17-29

**Next Sunday:** Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

**Mass Readings for the Week of August 30**

**Sunday:** Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2b]/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

**Monday:** 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/Lk 4:16-30

**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 [17]/Lk 4:31-37

**Wednesday:** 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/Lk 4:38-44

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [1]/Lk 5:1-11

**Friday:** 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Lk 5:33-39

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 [18]/Lk 6:1-5

**Next Sunday:** Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

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**Sunday Reflection**

The sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them. —Pope St. Gregory the Great

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**Gospel Meditation for August 30**

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple. ©LPi