

January 16, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

304 3rd Street Imogene, IA 51645 Mailing address: PO Box 375 Shenandoah, IA 51601-0375

stpatsimogene@gmail.com www.stpatrickchurchimogeneiowa.weebly.com

Facebook-St. Patrick Catholic Church-Imogene, IA

PASTOR-FATHER LAZARUS KIRIGIA

1510 Highland Red Oak, Iowa 712-623-2744 (Office) 515-770-9064 (Emergencies) kirigia32@hotmail.com

Mission Statement-Aware of our rich Catholic tradition we strive to keep Jesus as the center of our worship and life. We are open to ongoing formation in faith through the sacraments, life experiences, and other opportunities for reflection. We are committed to witnessing our faith by serving others and working for justice and peace.



MASSES – Sunday-8:30am

Saturday-5pm (2nd & 4th Saturday of the month)

Tuesday-8:30am Thursday-6pm Holydays-check bulletin

RECONCILIATION-Saturday-4:15pm-4:45pm (2nd & 4th Saturday of the month). Sunday (weekend with 1st Saturday Mass) 8am-8:15am

ADORATION-Tuesday 1am-10am, 7pm-12am Wednesday 12am-11am, 6pm-10pm

SUNDAY COFFEE- after Mass most YFF Sundays YFF-9:45am-10:35am Sundays

Contact Father Lazarus: when a family member is in the hospital, when he needs to bring communion to the homebound or when someone is in need of anointing, to schedule a baptism and at least **6 months** before your anticipated wedding date. **East bookcase:** Please sign our Guest Register. Feel free to take a brief parish history and/or a self-guided tour sheet.

Vestibule bulletin board-If you would like to become a member of our faith family, please fill out a

registration blank, drop it in the collection basket or mail to the church. **Tithe envelopes**-top shelf of east bookcase; put your name on the first few envelopes.

VISITORS- Welcome! It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here. If you are a visitor for the day, we pray God's blessings on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family.

*****Livestream Masses: Tuesdays 8:30am, Thursday 6pm, Sunday 8:30am*****

***** Go to: www.facebook.com/stpatrickimogeneiowa to watch*****

*Please join our faith community in kneeling at the end of Mass
and silently saying three Hail Mary's for world peace and an end to abortion.*

	Sunday Jan.16	Tuesday Jan. 18	Thursday Jan. 20	Saturday Jan. 22	Sunday Jan. 23
Mass Intention	+Ann McDonald	+Marty & Margaret Laughlin	+David Maher +Ann McDonald	Members of the parish	Richard Johnson Family
Lector	Yvonne Ashley			Tom Dinville	Tom Martin
EME	Jim Martin				Kathy Harbor
Servers	Danny Kinsella Rachel Kinsella Ava Forney				Nora Martin Lucy Martin Morgan McGargill
Ushers	Paul Blake Bernie Hughes Joe Cheney JoAnn Cheney			Kim Hughes Bernie Hughes Kent Owens Caleb Owens	Joe Gutschenritter Wes Nicholas Aaron Molnar Dave McGargill
Streaming	Maryanne Dailey				Kari Kinsella
Sacristans	Joe Cheney			Kent Owens	Peg Brand
Greeters	Dan&Kari Kinsella			Zeb & Jennie Burkhiser	Bob & Peg Brand

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PASTOR

Bishop Fulton Sheen once summed up the entire Bible in two words: divine nuptials. A rhetorical exaggeration perhaps, but I used it as a key in a two year study that involved reading every word of the Scriptures and the best commentaries available. The marriage theme kept recurring. The Bible opens with the creation of the first human pair and the institution of marriage ("for this reason..." Gen 2:24). It ends with the nuptial banquet where Christ takes his bride forever. (Rev 19:7) Between we see the struggle to form a faithful people.

Today's readings contain explicit nuptial references. Isaiah compares Yahweh to a young man who marries a virgin. (62:5) His loves transforms her. She used to be called "Forsaken." Now she has a new name, "My Delight."

Caution is required here. We can hear these words in terms of pop psychology. "She recovered her self-esteem." A feminist addendum might even creep in, "But why did she need a man to do it?"

Such analysis misses the point. The primary focus is not how the bride (Israel) changes, but utter amazement at the groom (God). The intensity of His love can only be compared to the moment the young man sees the bride and realizes she is his.

Today it is harder to appreciate that intensity. Pornography has become a tidal wave and casual sex the staple of prime time TV. It debases the currency. In the 90s my country Kenya went through a terrible inflation, the biggest bill was 200 shillings but after inflation we had 1000 shillings bill. The money became a source of cynical, often bitter humor. Something similar has happened to sex. Not that folks don't want it, but it just doesn't have much value. Fiscal discipline restored the worth of Kenyan currency.

To appreciate the biblical teaching we first need a certain asceticism. Someone who can help us is G.K. Chesterton. He has a wonderful reflection: *"I could never mix in the common murmur of that rising generation against monogamy, because no restriction on sex seemed so odd and unexpected as sex itself. To be allowed, like Endymion, to make love to the moon and then to complain that Jupiter kept his own moons in a harem seemed to me (bred on fairy tales like Endymion's) a vulgar anti-climax. Keeping to one woman is a small price for so much as seeing one woman. To complain that I could only be married once was like complaining that I had only been born once. It was incommensurate with the terrible excitement of which one was talking. It showed, not an exaggerated sensibility to sex, but a curious insensibility to it. A man is a fool who complains that he cannot enter Eden by five gates at once."* (G.K. Chesterton; Orthodoxy)

Jesus went a step further than Chesterton. He restricted himself not to one, but none. But he was celibate not because he disparaged sex. Just the opposite. He was not destined to be a bridegroom, but rather the bridegroom. We see that in today's epiphany, the occasion Jesus chose to first reveal some of his inner reality. How much Jesus loves young married couples! He rejoices with them. He did not get married because he is the inner joy of every Christian marriage.

He performs this miracle at the urging of his Mother, whom significantly he calls "Woman." Before the primeval sin our common mother was referred to as "the woman." (Gen 3) By the time of St. Irenaeus (2nd century) Christians saw Mary as the New Eve.

So often women "set the agenda." Here Mary does that for the New Adam - so gently ("they have no wine...do whatever he tells you") that she apparently hastened his "hour." To give his mother such influence does not imply Jesus was in any way "out of control." Rather he allowed her a role at crucial points in his work of salvation.

The abundance - even the extravagance - of God's nuptial love comes home in today's miracle. One hundred fifty gallons of wine, after all, is an enormous quantity. But it is a tiny sip compared to what Jesus has reserved for his bride.

Today's Gospel shows Jesus love for married couples. It must have devastated those newlyweds to run out of wine at their reception. But Jesus - through the intercession of his Blessed Mother - helps in a time of crisis. He gives an abundance of every blessing that brings joy. Above all, he desires for us the greatest blessing - the forgiveness of sins and the power to forgive one another. As a sign of those blessings, Jesus today turns some hundred and fifty gallons of water into wine. Yes, if we make the effort to follow God's path, he gives every blessing - in abundance.

Have a Blessed Week; Fr. Lazarus Kirigia.

Our Gifts to God 1/8 & 1/9

Plate: \$4005.00 Tithes: \$665.00
Masses: \$5.00 Votives: \$385.84
Donuts: \$64.00
Special Collection: \$2055.00

Altar Society

The monthly committee should meet the Sunday before the start of their month to get things organized for their month.

Coffee & Donuts

Please join us downstairs after Mass for coffee and donuts.

The Bishop Wants to Hear From Us

Bishop William Joensen invites us to take part in a brief survey that will assist our visioning process for the Diocese of Des Moines. We want to hear of your joys and disappointments, your hopes and priorities for our diocesan future. To complete the survey in English, go here: <https://forms.gle/1mp721t5b8TFcAid8> or click on the QR code



Can you help?

We will be stuffing envelopes for the Bless Our Heritage Celebration mailings downstairs at 6:30pm on Tuesday, Jan.18th.
All help is welcome!

St. Patrick's Well Project

The Well Project is over.
Because of the generosity of so many people,
this project raised **\$60,000!**

THANK YOU

Poinsettias

There are still several poinsettias left. If you didn't take one last weekend, please take one today. If you took one last weekend and want another one, please take another one today. Whatever is left will be disposed of after Mass.

4 Ways to keep your poinsettia alive year round

1. Don't let the soil dry out. Continue to water your poinsettia like you would any other plant.
2. Slowly decrease its water intake around the month of April. This is a very critical step in which it might die due to it not being able to accept this new drying phase. Move to a colder place where the temperature never goes over 60 degrees and out of sunlight. Keep it indoors if you live in dry and hot areas of the country.
3. Sometime in May, re-pot the poinsettia in a bigger container. Cut all the stems down to about four inches. After, give it a good watering to wake it up. At this point, you will want to give it some sun while still remaining indoors. You will notice some rebirth after continuing to water on a regular basis through the summer. Apply fertilizer a few times a month throughout the summer as well.
4. To get poinsettias to re-bloom, limit its exposure to sunlight or this will affect the blooming process. Flower buds should be seen by November if all goes well.

Annual Diocese Appeal

We have still not met our goal of \$20,261. We only need **\$486.00** to meet our goal. If you have not given yet, please prayerfully consider giving your gift today.
Thank you to all who have already given.

Happening In Our Diocese

World Day for Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Wednesday, Feb. 2 and in parishes over the weekend of Feb. 5-6. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Alpha is Coming

St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines invites everyone to participate in Alpha, a 12- week opportunity during which we explore faith questions in a friendly, open and non-judgmental environment. Each week includes time to connect with others, hear a short talk on an element of the Christian faith and a chance to share questions. Register here: <http://saintfrancischurch.org/formation/alpha/> Questions? Email sfaalpha@saintfrancischurch.org or call 515-440-1030.

We're Hiring

Catholic Charities has job openings and signing bonuses. See all the opportunities where you can empower individuals and strengthen families. Go here to see the openings: <https://catholiccharitiesdm.bamboohr.com/jobs>

Save the Date

All young adults are invited to come to the next Young Catholic Network gathering Jan. 25 in downtown Des Moines. You can look forward to networking, complimentary drinks and appetizers, and a guest speaker with tremendous insight into living our Catholic faith in the professional world. Learn more at dmdiocese.org/ycn.

Calling all high school seniors

As you enter the last semester of your high school years, pause and consider what it will mean to stay rooted in Christ after high school. Come to a Radix retreat and escape for a weekend of prayer and relaxation. Get more information at dmdiocese.org/radix.