

May 2025
Pastor's Report

Parish Vitality: Listed below is an update of our efforts this past month and moving forward to help accomplish some of the goals pertaining to our parish's vitality.

1) Service to Others:

- a. This month's 2nd on the 2nd Program will be for Roses for Life which will take place the weekend of May 10th and 11th.

2) Sense of Belonging:

- a. Still no word on completion of our Parish Pictorial Directory.
- b. Please keep in your prayers Angel and John Celebrado who will also be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation along with our students from Holy Family Catholic Schools and our Religious Education program. Angel and John moved to Dubuque from the Philippines with their mother three years ago. Let's keep them and all who are receiving the Sacraments 1st Eucharist or Confirmation this month.

3) The Mass:

- a. We are grateful to Fr. Pins who assisted with our Religious Education students in grade 1 thru 4 this past month by offering a "Teaching Mass" prior to the Triduum.

Parish events and program updates:

- April has been an extremely busy month, and the first part of May looks to be about the same. Our Lenten programs were well attended this year as were our Triduum celebrations and Easter Sunday Masses. A special thank you to all who helped to prepare and celebrate these wonderful liturgies during these blessed seasons of the Church. Additionally, I want to thank those who decorated our churches for Lent and Easter this year. You all did an awesome job as evidence of the many compliments we received from parishioners and guests. We also received a lot of praise for the worship space for our Altar of Repose for Holy Thursday (it was decorated beautifully and was the best in the area). Thanks too, to those who helped spruce up our outdoor Stations of the Cross at Holy Ghost for our traditional Good Friday devotion (which was also well attended), the gold-colored wood chips were a nice touch this year.
- On May 1st we will celebrate May Crowning of Mary. The event will be at Holy Trinity beginning at 5:00 pm and will include the traditional crowning and prayers of blessing followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which will include the rosary. Following this liturgy, everyone is invited to join us in Terrance Hall for a meal and drinks.

- Also on May 1st, on the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, we will have an additional Mass at 9:00 am at Holy Ghost for those who have been or are currently affected in one way or another with cancer. At this Mass we also seek the intercession of St. Peregrine—the patron saint of cancer victims. All are welcome to join us in prayer and support for those struggling with the affects this disease.
- On the weekend of May 3rd and 4th we will have nine receiving their 1st Holy Communion. We are filled with joy to have them join us at the Lord's Table to receive this most special sacrament. Let us keep them in our prayers this month.
- On May 10th we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for several of our young parishioners. This liturgy will take place at the Cathedral at 6:00 pm. We invite all to attend this event and certainly ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers as they bear good fruit of the gifts of the Holy Spirit they have received.
- We had a respectable crowd for our Pork and Kraut Dinner on April 26th, we thank Jeff Jochum, Dcn. John Stierman, Jeff Schmidt, the Knights of Columbus Council #510 along with several others who helped with this event. Looking ahead, please don't forget to attend and participate in our Parish Trivia Night on May 16th beginning at 6:00 pm at the Dubuque Shooting Range. Our parish staff team usually has done well at this event—come test your wit with ours.
- Throughout April, Raegan Reid (our parish DMI point person) has spent a lot of time pouring through the results of the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey that parishioners participated in several weeks ago. I have spent a lot of time on this as well (although not near the time Raegan has). We were able to present some of these results to select parish leaders and will post some of our findings in the coming weekend bulletins. I wish to thank Raegan for her hard work and dedication to this program, and I thank those selected parish leaders for their input and good discussion as well. We will continue to provide more information on the DMI program (as a whole) in the coming weeks and months that lay ahead.

My prayers for a blessed Easter Season!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Steve