

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

PARISH NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor: Rev. Gabriel Anderson

WAVELENGTH

Dear Parishioners,

Our world is being renewed! Getting on the same page with God is urgent and important, especially right now. Experience communion of heart by putting on the mind of Christ: **Be on His Wavelength.** It's a wireless connection.

At all Masses, **September 23-October 22**, our theme is "**Wavelength: Alignment With the Lord Jesus!**" When we think as God thinks, we do as God says. Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ:

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:6-8

Blessings upon you,

Fr. Gabriel Anderson



OCTOBERFEST 2017

Fun For All Ages!



The weekend begins after 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, September 30, with turkey and dressing sandwiches as well as **bake sale** and **craft corner** items for sale. We'll have a **Euchre tournament** at 6:30 pm and bidding for **Silent Auction** items. Sunday, October 1, will include a full day of fun including **Bingo**, a **Kids Tractor Pull**, and our first ever **Kids Garage Sale!**

We need volunteers for our event to be successful! We have opportunities for all ages and time schedules. Please sign up by going to www.SignUp.com/go/OCEAvjV

Here are other ways you can help:

- Come and enjoy a delicious dinner including chicken from Kalmes' and pork from Darrel Biechler.
- Purchase or sell your raffle tickets (included in your Octoberfest envelope from the parish).
- Prepare baked goods and handmade crafts items for the Bake Sale and Craft Corner.
- Donate an item to the Silent Auction (Contact Sally Kahle at kahle.sally@gmail.com).

For more information, contact the Parish Office (563-588-1433) or Tim Tranel (563-590-1467).

St. Joseph the Worker Church

Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a welcoming Catholic community by building faith together through worship, faith formation, and service.

Welcome, Deacon Travis King!

Thank you all so much for the warm welcome. I was ordained on Saturday, July 15, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton in Hiawatha. I was assigned by Archbishop Jackels to St. Joseph the Worker & St. Columbkille parishes as your newest Permanent Deacon.

I was born in Mason City and raised in Dougherty, IA. I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy & History with a Minor in Catholic Studies from Loras College. I furthered my studies in the Masters of Theology program with Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH, and through five years of Diaconate formation with the Archdiocese. On August 12th, 2006, I was married to my wife, Melissa, in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dubuque. We have four children: Erin, Anna, Claire and John. I work full time as a Director of the Office of Client Management with Prudential Retirement, where I have worked for 15 years.

I am also involved with other Church and community organizations. I am an Eagle Scout and 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus. I am a Vincentian with the St. Vincent de Paul Society where I assist with home visits and fundraising to help those in need. I serve meals with the Dubuque Mission on Main Street and am involved with the St. Paul Street Evangelization efforts supported by 98.3FM-KCRD. Melissa and I are members of the Serra Club of Dubuque where they raise awareness for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life. As your Permanent Deacon, I look forward to showing the love of God to others through liturgy, word and charity, and to leading many souls to Heaven.



Update from St. Therese of the Child Jesus—Our Sister Parish in Haiti

The following is an update from Fr. Paul Dorlean, the pastor of our sister parish, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in Gonaives, Haiti.

"I present my religious greetings. I come to inform you that the parish of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus of Gonaives planned several activities during the summer to provoke a pastoral awakening. The most spectacular event was the realization of the summer camp which brought together about 75 young people and children of the area. I come to thank you for the funding of this activity so important for the young people and children of the zone. In general, children in the area are being tortured by hunger. Parents have neither the time nor the means to feed them properly. This one-month camp is the opportunity to feed and maintain them and introduce them to prayer and sharing God's word in a climate free from risk of contamination. This camp is part of a pastoral approach to offer accompaniment to young people and children, taking into account the existential reality of each age group. I also thank you for the grant for the complete finishing of the parish's school. The doors of the school opened in September. Thank you for the support you give to us! May the God of mercy always be with you all!"

We will continue to update you on the news from our sister parish and ask that you continue to pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters, especially as they deal with the effects of Hurricane Irma.



Our Call to Evangelize

By Deacon Bill Biver

Page 3



More than likely, none of us have ever considered calling ourselves an evangelist. For we have not written a Gospel like Mathew, Mark, Luke, or John did. The large majority of us wouldn't even think of going on national TV, preaching from the Bible, and asking for contributions to support our ministry. And going door to door, two by two, passing out pamphlets, is probably not on our bucket list either.

However, we as Catholics, are all called to be evangelists. In fact, we were baptized to evangelize. For to evangelize simply means to intentionally answer the call to be a visible sign and an instrument of God's love, mercy, and presence in the world. Exercising this vocation starts right where we are: in our families, in our parishes, where we work, and wherever we are in the world in which we live.

To effectively answer this call from God, we must first give witness or reflect Christ's presence in our lives through what we do and through what we say. This starts by making a conscious effort to turn away from all sin and to embrace the merciful kindness and unconditional forgiveness that God extends to us as free gifts, especially through the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

To be an effective evangelist, we must first be a true believer. Being a believer means more than just believing that God exists or that Jesus is God and that he died and rose again. A believer is someone who has put their faith in Christ for the unearned gift of salvation that only Jesus can give and who puts their trust in everything that Jesus taught. The believer has embraced the truth that their own goodness is insufficient and that they are in need of God's free gift of grace in order to be viewed as righteous in God's eyes.

An evangelist does not have to be a gifted theologian, but rather a person who is willing to surrender to and to obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit alive within them. He or she is not afraid of this because they trust that the Lord will supply whatever spiritual gifts are needed to carry out whatever it is they might be asked to do.

It is the Holy Spirit who is the principle agent of evangelization, no matter whom the believer may be. We act or speak as guided by the Spirit, and it is the third person of the Holy Trinity that actually moves the heart of the receiver to respond to the word or action God offers through the evangelizer.

The Church exists to evangelize. As such, evangelizing is not an option for a true disciple of Christ. Jesus told us to go make disciples of all nations; in other words, everyone needs to be evangelized. The desire and the willingness to evangelize, in themselves, are gifts that the Holy Spirit inspires within us. God's goal in all evangelization, is to use us as instruments through which he draws others to, or closer to, his son Jesus and to his body, the Church.

Being an evangelist always starts with our actions as they speak louder than words. For if our actions do not give witness to Christ's presence within us, others will not pay any attention to our words. But sooner or later, the heart of an evangelizer is called to the mature conviction by the Holy Spirit that they have an obligation to speak the name of Jesus to others so that others will call upon Jesus to share in his loving kindness, his forgiving mercy, and his saving grace.

In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we read that the ultimate goal of our God is to bring all things into union with Christ. Without each of us saying "yes" to God's call for us to evangelize, this is not going to happen as our heavenly Father wills it be.

Without the fire of God's love personally burning within us, none of us have the capacity to fully answer our baptismal call to evangelize. Thus, we must pray for ourselves and all our brothers and sisters that God the Holy Spirit will enflame our hearts with the desire to evangelize in accordance with the mind and heart of Christ.

Jesus, baptize us in the Holy Spirit! Holy Spirit, giver of all spiritual gifts, fill and anoint us with your power and unite us in opening and sharing the gift of our call to evangelize!

Fall 2017

60 South Algona Street
Dubuque, IA 52001-5605

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Fax: 563-588-4108

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JOIN US FOR GRACE 2.0:

WAVELENGTH

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Contact Information

Help us maintain accurate records of how to reach our parishioners! Please take the time to update your contact info on this card and return it to us either in church or at the parish office!

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Looking Ahead

September 30-October 1:
Octoberfest

September 23-October 22:
Grace 2.0: Wavelength

October 21-22:
Mass of Holy Anointing

October 3, November 7:
Treasure Luncheons

November 4-5:
Celebration of Remembrance

November 12:
Mission Night

November 17-18:
NCYC Live Stream

November 19:
Fair Trade & Ripple Effects Sale

