

# The Community of Blessed Sacrament

## Community Connections

Volume 4, Issue 2

### Trust in God's Word

Lent 2014

#### Upcoming Special Events

- Mar 1: Winterfest in the Parish Center
- Mar 5: Ash Wednesday
  - 7:00 AM, Ash Wednesday Liturgy
  - 9:00 AM, School Liturgy
  - 10:30 AM, Parish Alms Project
  - 5:30 PM, Brown Bag Meal
  - 6:00 PM, Food Packaging Party
  - 7:30 PM, Liturgy
- Mar 6: 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross & Rosary (every Thursday in Lent)
- Mar 7: 5:00 PM, Stations of the Cross (every Friday in Lent)
- Mar 7-9: Women's CEW
- Mar 10: 5:30 PM, Mass & Benediction
- Mar 23: 3:00 PM, Communal Reconciliation, St. Edward Church, Waterloo
- Mar 28-30: Men's CEW
- Mar 31: 5:30 PM, Mass & Benediction
- Mar 31: 6:30 PM, Catholic Witness Hour, Putz Hall
- Apr 6: St. Patrick Church, Cedar Falls
  - 3:00 PM, Anointing
  - 4:00 PM, Communal Reconciliation
- Apr 7: 5:30 PM, Mass & Benediction
- Apr 12: 4:30 PM, Palm Sunday Liturgy
- Apr 13: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM, Palm Sunday Liturgies
- Apr 15: 2:00 PM, Chrism Mass, St. John Evangelist Church, Independence
- Apr 17: 7:00 PM, Liturgy of the Lord's Last Supper (no 8:00 AM Liturgy)
- Apr 18: 6:00 PM, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (no 8:00 AM Liturgy)
- Apr 19: 8:00 PM, Easter Vigil (no 4:30 PM Liturgy)
- Apr 20: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM, Easter Sunday Liturgy
- Apr 26: 9:00 AM, First Communion Rehearsal
- Apr 27: First Communion Sunday
- May 1: 5:30 PM, Salad Supper, Parish Center
- May 7: 9:00 AM, School Liturgy - Living Rosary
- May 11: Mother's Day
- May 18: 2:00 PM, CHS Graduation
- June 1: Ascension of Mary
- June 8: Pentecost

#### Inside this issue:

New Parking Lot	2
Winterfest Beach Party	2
Daily Disciple	3
The Many Faces of Hunger	3
Lenten Reflections and Actions	4

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Lent begins with Jesus in our position: facing temptation. "Turn these stones into bread" invites Satan. Our Lord responds "Not by bread alone does one live... but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God." Lent is our time to pay attention to God's Word.

Like Jesus, the Father's Word to us in Lent is TRUST in GOD. Jesus is to risk his physical needs to His Heavenly Father's care, and make bringing the Kingdom of God *come first*. That same trust is asked of us: make revealing the justice and mercy of God *a priority* over taking care of oneself.

Also like Jesus, we have some power over our well being. We may not be able to turn stones into bread, but most of us can turn our own wealth, work, or social services into not only food, but into a whole array of satisfactions for our desires.

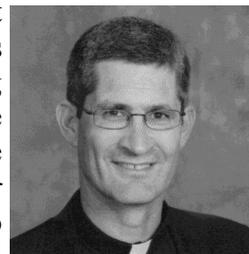
Unlike Jesus, we are not so good at hearing God's word. We use the power we have to take care of ourselves, and satisfy our many appetites. We need Lent to re-attune to God's Word, and stretch our ability to trust as Jesus did.

Also, unlike Jesus, or us, many people have *no power* to turn the stones of their poor countries into bread, no work or wealth to turn for food, no government services to turn to when lacking it. *Their temptation* is to despair that God's word **trust** can't be true.

This Lent, we can do it all! Blessed

Sacrament can put trust in God's Word by fasting from some of the satisfactions we could use our resources to acquire. On Ash Wednesday, plan to be part of one of the "Kids Against Hunger" food packaging parties we will host. Then through Lent, put the savings from your own fasting into the Brass Bucket collections on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Those funds will pay for the food we package: the *stones* we have turned into *God's Word of life* for refugees and the poor of the world.

Our goal for Lent, if it is to endure beyond Lent, has to increase our need for God. If we don't need God in a real way, it's far easier to make the Kingdom 2nd, 5th, or 10th on my list of priorities. My need for God begins where my power to turn stones into bread ends. Let's give a little of that power over to God this Lent! It's how we begin to become like Jesus. May God bless your Lenten efforts to do so!



Fr. Tom McDermott  
Pastor

Fr. Tom



### Winterfest Beach Party - Saturday, March 1st

## New Parking Lot on the Horizon

Tom Salkeld, Finance Council Chair



Have you been getting tired of navigating our Blessed Sacrament parking lots, trying to avoid the spring and summer puddles in the low spots and not tripping on the high spots where patching has been done? Have you been praying that we would someday have new lots? The answer to your prayers is near.

A planning committee was formed a little over a month ago to identify the needs for making repairs to the parking lots, consider options for total replacement or resurfacing, and provide recommendations for raising the necessary funds. The committee is comprised of two members of the Finance Council, Fr. Tom, and four volunteers who were solicited for their expertise in the work of the group. As of the writing of this article, members of the committee have analyzed the issues with the current parking lots, requested proposals from engineering firms, approached potential contractors, determined a time frame for scheduling the completion of the

various aspects of the project, and discussed means and options for raising the needed funds.

An engineering firm will be selected by the third week of February. The work of the firm will include surveying, subsoil testing, design specifications and drawings, recommendations, and consultation assistance to oversee the completion of the project. When the surveying results and the design work are received from the engineer, contractor bids will be sent out.



needed repairs to the subsurface and addressing any drainage needs. Resurfacing would occur by placing an overlay of asphalt on top of the existing/repared asphalt surface. This option may be modified pending the recommendations of the engineer. Other options that have been discussed include total removal of the existing surface of the lots and replacement with asphalt or concrete. Total replacement would involve additional

Preliminary information gleaned by the committee is indicating the best option to be resurfacing the existing parking lots after completing any

engineering costs and modifications to prevent water runoff, such as a retention pond. The cost of a total replacement is estimated to be nearly double that of resurfacing. Speaking of cost, early estimates for engineering, repairing subsurface areas and installing drainage where needed, and resurfacing with a layer of asphalt amount to approximately **\$300,000 - \$350,000**. The plan is to complete the parking lot work between spring and summer, while school is not in session.

Efforts are underway to raise funds for this important, but costly project. Fr. Tom has approached several donors who have committed over **\$100,000** to the parking lot project. We encourage all our parishioners to strongly consider making a financial contribution so that loans are not necessary. 100% of all contributions designated for the project will be used for the completion of the parking lots, and will not be taxed by the Archdiocese or assessed by Cedar Valley Catholic Schools. Please mark your contributions – Capital Improvement, Parking Lot Project.

Thank you for considering supporting this important, and much needed project.



## Winterfest Beach Party

Lori Zabler, Winterfest Co-Chair



Auction Beach Party. The proceeds from the live and silent auctions support our parish and its many activities.

Tickets will be sold for this adults-only party following all weekend liturgies

in February. Tickets are \$8 until March 1st when the price increases to \$10. A small plates meal will be available as well as assorted adult beverages (no outside alcohol permitted), auction registration and silent auction begins at 5:30 with the live auction starting at 7:00.

Live Auction items that will be available include a handmade oak corner cabinet, soup of the month, a week at a Florida condo, a Weber gas grill, jewelry, a yard crash, car care/car

wash package, several collectibles, wonderful gift baskets from every school classroom and more. There is something for everyone!

Join your fellow parishioners for fun, fellowship and fundraising!

Too busy to make the event? Please consider making a donation to support the Auction. If there is something you'd like to bid on and can't be at the Auction, contact Scott Zabler (319-215-5483) to set up a bidding proxy so he can bid for you.

## Daily Disciple: Jeff & Peggy Burvee

Harland Robinson

Our Daily Disciples for this Lenten Season are Jeff and Peggy Burvee. Jeff and Peggy have been members of the Blessed Sacrament Community since July of 1977 and became actively involved while their children were attending school at Blessed Sacrament. Peggy worked for the school for five years, while Jeff helped coach volleyball and softball, helped design and build the playground equipment, and co-captained Bingo on Sundays. Jeff and Peggy also served on the Parish Center Fundraising Committee. Throughout the years, Jeff and Peggy have remained very active in the community, having co-chaired the Fall Festival and served as Set-up and Clean-up Chairs for Fall Festival for three years. Jeff has also handcrafted



furniture and crafts for Fall Festival and Winterfest for many years and has helped with the Winterfest auction. In addition, Jeff served on the Parish Council for six years and on the Finance, Building and Grounds Committee for many years. Peggy has served on the Stewardship Committee and continues to help where needed. Currently, Jeff is a bus driver for

CVCS and Peggy volunteers at school and subs as an associate when needed. They also support Funeral Dinners, which Jeff works, while Peggy makes salads and cakes.

Jeff and Peggy both credit being raised as Catholics in families “who showed us the importance of faith through participation in mass and other church activities.” and enjoy helping out as a great way to be involved with the community. “Blessed Sacrament is a great community of faith, family, and friends and we have met many wonderful people and made many good friends over the years.”

Jeff and Peggy have two children, Jason of Waterloo and Jenny (Joe) of Cibola, TX and two grandchildren, Carter, age 13, and Ashley, age 12.

## The Many Faces of Hunger

Bridget Hartmann, Social Justice Committee



The Social Justice Committee of Blessed Sacrament Community strives to bridge the gap between the Gospel and the world we live in by promoting and coordinating charitable programs for the worldwide community which focus on current social issues such as hunger, homelessness, and poverty. Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners, the committee has been able to impact hundreds of underprivileged in our own community through the Caring Bag Program, Habitat for Humanity, and Community Meals, as well as thousands of people in Nicaragua with the Children of the Dump shoeboxes.

As Poverty Awareness Month begins, we are busy organizing this year’s Lenten project. Our theme for this Lenten season is *The Many Faces of Hunger*. We are excited to be

following the path of Pope Francis and his direction for us to feed the hungry. This year, we will be working with Outreach, an affiliate of Kids Against Hunger, in Union, IA. They have a variety of ministries that work with meeting the needs of the poorest of the poor in the US and around the world. Kids Against Hunger is a national organization that creates food “packaging parties”, creating meals that are designed not only to be nutritious, but also feed many people for minimal cost. Meals are formulated to prevent starvation.

We would like to invite everyone to participate in the “packaging parties” in the parish center of Blessed Sacrament on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014. In just one day, we will package 32,000 meals! Half of those meals will go to Tanzania in Africa, and the other half will go to Chinnendega, Nicaragua (the same place the Children of the Dump boxes go). The rice and bean meals cost just



25 cents each! Imagine 32,000 meals for only \$8,000. We are very fortunate to have Outreach and The Waterloo Rotary provide shipping to Tanzania and Nicaragua. It is the goal of the Social Justice Committee to collect enough money from our faith community to not only cover the cost of this project, but hopefully exceed it. As a parish that always steps up to a challenge, we know we can do it!

We invite and encourage everyone to participate in this project. Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions on packaging day. In addition, please pray for the recipients of these meals, and help with this worthwhile cause as you make donations to the brass bucket. We need everyone’s help to make this Ash Wednesday party a success!



## THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

650 Stephan Avenue  
Waterloo, Iowa 50701

Rectory Phone 319-233-6179  
FAX 319-233-6051  
School Phone 319-233-7863  
Day Care Phone 319-236-6131

Reconciliation: 3:30 PM Saturday or see bulletin  
Masses 4:30 PM Saturday  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday  
8:00 AM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
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### “Lenten Reflections and Actions from the Gospels of Matthew & John”

Gerry Gienger & Sr. Madonna

Lent is a time to “turn around,” repent, and be changed. A change of attitude of heart, coming through our actions is expressive of a deeper commitment to follow Jesus and choose the Lord’s values. Our Lenten Season begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** and calls us to **practice almsgiving, prayer, and fasting.** **Action:** Examine my values and lifestyle by comparing them with Gospel values and recognize my need for continuing conversion.



**First Sunday:** Matthew’s Gospel invites us to go into the desert with Jesus to be alone with him as he meditates and struggles with all the dimensions of himself. Enter into Jesus’ confrontations with his three temptations for: **Power, Influence/Control, and False Glory/Idolatry.** **Action:** Make choices to live from my inner truth rather than allowing the attraction of temptations of power, control, and glory to have a place in my life.

**Second Sunday:** Today, Matthew’s Gospel relates the occurrence of the transfiguration of Jesus. It is our call to a blessed future. When we trust God’s call to follow Jesus, we can let go of all that we hold onto for security and begin to see the various transfigurations happening all around us. **Action:** Name personal transfigurations I’ve experienced or seen around me.

**Third Sunday:** In John’s Gospel, we experience the tenderness and compassion of Jesus’s encounter with the Samaritan woman by helping her to an awareness of her needs and of her true thirst. **Action:** Reflect on my thirsts for: power, acceptance, relationships, freedom from suffering, etc. Envision Jesus helping me use my thirsts in a positive way.



**Fourth Sunday:** John’s visual Gospel is filled with images of sight, light, and correct vision. Jesus helps the blind man gain his sight, thus empowering him to accept Jesus and his way of life. In giving sight to the man born blind, Jesus gives glory to God.

**Action:** In a spirit of repentance, reflect upon areas of blindness in my life. Ask for God’s grace to be healed from this blindness in my life.



**Fifth Sunday:** Within the Gospel reading from John, Jesus is faced with the painful reality of death. Most of us have experienced the death of a dear friend. Identifying with the humanity of Jesus as he weeps over the death of Lazarus helps us through our pain in the death of a dear one. Jesus raises Lazarus back to life, pointing out the abundance of God’s love, saying “I am the resurrection and the life”. **Action:** Describe how Jesus has touched areas in my

life that have been dead, and thereby, brought me back to new life.

**Palm (Passion) Sunday:** Today’s passion narrative from Matthew’s Gospel drains us. It is filled with emotions and experiences that run very deep; betrayal, love, trust, denial, condemnation, and death. **Action:** Pray the Jesus prayer, slowly repeating the mantra, “Jesus, Son of the living God, have pity on me, as a sinner”. Continue praying this mantra, focusing on Jesus’ gift of love for you.