



# CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

1000 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51105

September 2022

## GETTING READY TO SAY 'I DO'

*Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV*

In my time as a parish priest I have had the blessing of preparing several couples for marriage, and then witnessing their union. I would still not consider myself an expert in marriage. Because of my job as judge of the Diocesan Tribunal, and my education in Canon Law, I am more of an expert in failed marriages. My job there is to look into marriages that have failed to determine whether they were valid or not according to Church law. One of the common denominators in failed marriages is a poor preparation. Correlation does not mean causation, so I am not saying that the reason why these marriages failed is because the couple did not receive better preparation, but I am convinced that if they had done a better job, they would have had the tools to overcome difficulties, or perhaps they would have avoided the pain altogether by not getting married.

The Church teaches that the whole parish community is responsible for the proper preparation of couples for marriage. We priests have to preach about what marriage really is, its challenges and its many blessings. Catechists have to teach about the sacraments, including marriage. Parents ought to teach their children about marriage and married life through word and example. Couples are to dedicate themselves not only to plan a ceremony and a party, but to discern if God is truly calling them to marry each other.

Unfortunately many couples come to the parish to begin marriage preparation, and they treat it just as contracting with a venue. By then they have already put down deposits on other venues and services, and treat the different steps of marriage preparation not unlike a cake or dinner taste testing.

A fruitful marriage preparation would allow couples to ask hard questions, especially whether God is calling them to a life-long commitment. That could, indeed, lead to the conclusion that they are not, having to call off the wedding. On the flip side, it could also lead the couple to a more joyful celebration, and an even more successful marriage.

So, if you are planning on getting married in the future, please do not wait to come the parish until you have a date and are financially committed to other venues and services. Please come early on, and allow yourself to discern God's calling, and prepare for the beautiful vocation of marriage and parenthood.

Parents, help your children have successful marriages by teaching them by word and example, as well as by praying for them. On a practical note, do not hijack marriage preparation. If you are the one calling the parish, and not them, that is a red flag! If two adults getting ready to spend the rest of their lives together cannot or do not want to call the parish, one has to wonder if they really want to marry.

When the sacrament is celebrated by properly disposed couples, the blessings are many, and that is what we want for our couples, a fruitful "I do."



## WE ARE HIRING

### **BILINGUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

This may be a part time or a full time position. The main function is to provide for the efficient operation of the Parish Office and enhance staff effectiveness by providing secretarial and clerical support. Perform receptionist duties and general office support.

### **SACRAMENTAL AND FAITH LIFE DIRECTOR**

This may be a part time or a full time position. This person will work with parishioners preparing for the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony, with parishioners preparing to join the church through RCIA, and with parishioners organizing funerals; as well as with the clergy celebrating these sacraments.

### **CUSTODIAN—MAINTENANCE**

This may be a part time or a full time position. The primary purpose of this position is to provide for the efficient up-keep of buildings and grounds for the parish, and to assure well-maintained, safe facilities for staff and visitors.

### **DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC**

This is a full time position. Essential functions include but are not limited to: plan and execute sacred music for Masses in Spanish and English. Schedule musicians and/or choirs for all liturgies. Direct and oversee Cathedral choral programs, Episcopal liturgies, school liturgies; plan, coordinate, and execute music for weddings, funerals, and other special liturgies.

For more information on any of these positions please go to our website [sccathedral.org/jobs](http://sccathedral.org/jobs).

To apply please send an email to [ckramper@sccathedral.org](mailto:ckramper@sccathedral.org)



Because we live in a consumer-driven economy, there exists an old adage: “The customer is always right.” While this may work for selling goods, this mentality can also seep into our celebration of the sacraments, especially the celebration of matrimony. This is no surprise, as many couples want to make their wedding day very special and memorable. However, as Pope Francis writes in *Amoris Laetitia*, the things wedding magazines tend to

focus on, such as color schemes and clothing, “tend to drain not only the budget but energy and joy as well.”

The Holy Father goes on to say that “in their preparation for marriage, the couple should be encouraged to make the liturgical celebration a profound personal experience and to appreciate the meaning of each of its signs.” This, of course, is not a recommendation to fill the marriage ritual with all kinds of gimmicks that are inappropriate for a solemn liturgy. Rather, Pope Francis is encouraging couples to prioritize the celebration of the sacrament instead of leaving it as an afterthought. In doing so, the couple proactively keeps their faith and God as the central focus of their wedding and their future lives together.

Some ways to be intentional about the wedding liturgy is to first and foremost remember that the Church has her own rituals and ceremonies that are full of symbolism and theological meaning. While it may be tempting for a couple to try and personalize their wedding by writing their own vows or including secular rituals, it is

not part of what the Church envisions when she witnesses to the marriage of a man and woman.

People sometimes see this as rigidity on the part of the Church and her liturgy, but I would encourage looking at things from a different perspective. Because the man and woman are the actual ministers of their own marriage, they willingly come before the Church and the priest or deacon so that the Church may publicly witness to their vows. In doing so, there is a uniformity and a consistency with how the Church carries this out, reminding the couple through scripture, symbols, and the Holy Eucharist (if the wedding is inside a Mass) that they are bound together by God. The marriage ritual, just like any other sacrament, has established parameters because its focus is not customization or the couple. The ritual is rather a profound expression of God’s love and a witness to the couple’s faith.

Preparing for weddings today can include various details that shift the focus to be more practical and secular. The focus also tends to be primarily on customization and adding personal touches. The Church in her marriage ritual, however, is different. It refocuses the couple and those in attendance on the importance of sacrificial love, prayer, and God. This is crucially important because it is not a splendid and perfect wedding day that makes a marriage endure. What makes a marriage endure is a well-prepared and prayerful couple that enters into this holy union with well-formed intentions and a proper understanding of the duties and goals of married life.

Remember that even though weddings consist of a lot of planning and detail, the heart of the wedding is the liturgy! Choosing readings and appropriate music helps to make a wedding a holy and prayerful occasion—one that is truly set apart from the world, and one that witnesses to the faith of the couple and the love of God.

## GETTING MARRIED IN THE CHURCH?

Mrs. Santa Fernandez

Are you engaged and planning to get married in church? Do you live with your partner and have not been married in the church? Why is it important to get married in the church? If you have ever asked yourself these questions but do not know how to start the preparation or who to contact, call the office and I will answer all the questions and doubts you may have about the marriage, it is prudent to schedule the wedding date before that you reserve the room for the reception and thus avoid frustrations that the dates do not match, I will guide you and help you with the marriage preparation, it is not something difficult to do as long as you are committed to living a holy marriage, the sacrament through the which a baptized man and woman enter into an exclusive and permanent alliance for life, which are ordered to the procreation and education of children and for the good of their spouses.

God established marriage at the beginning of the world with the creation of man and woman and united them with the commandment he gave them to be fruitful and multiply, he created them male and female for each other in a union of one flesh. Conjugal love between man and woman is intended to reflect the

great love of God and the communion of the Holy Trinity. This plan of marriage from the beginning is known as marriage in the creation order, and it reveals that the call to marriage is an intrinsic part of the nature of man and woman.

The Church teaches that Jesus raised marriage from the order of creation to a sacrament. This is evident from his presence at the wedding in Cana, where he performed his first public miracle and participated in the wedding feast. The Church identifies the wedding at Cana as a time when Jesus instituted marriage as one of the sacraments. Jesus purified and restored the understanding of marriage to God's original design from the beginning of creation. He taught that the union of marriage is indissoluble, meaning that the union cannot be destroyed or dissolved except when one of the spouses dies. Although this may seem like a difficult teaching, the sacrament grants the grace to the married couple to live according to Jesus' marriage design.



# PARISH UPDATES

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Building Maintenance Fund, September 3-4.
- Together As One [Spanish Only], September 17-18.

## CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE

- Sunday, September 4. No Sung Vespers.
- Sunday, September 4. No parish breakfast. It has been rescheduled for September 11.
- Monday, September 5. Labor Day. Office closed. No Confessions. Mass only at 9am.
- Tuesday, September 13. No Confessions nor evening Mass in Spanish.

## OFFICE HOURS

We do not have an administrative assistant yet, so our office is not open to the public on a regular basis. If you need to visit with anyone, please call and make an appointment.

## BUSY PERSONS LUNCH

Our busy persons lunch will take place on the first Wednesday of the month, September 7, after the noon Mass. We hope you can join us.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The first session for parents and children of our new Religious Education program is Wednesday, September 7 at 6:15pm at the Cathedral. It is not required that you attend Mass at 5:30, but it would be a great way to start the evening.

# THE FINANCIAL CORNER

INCOME		July
Weekly Offerings	\$	47,580.50
Loose Offerings	\$	17,523.96
Prog. Support	\$	3,320.00
Other income	\$	37,724.69
<b>Total Parish Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>106,149.15</b>
EXPENSE		
Salaries & Wages	\$	30,689.25
Administrative Expenses	\$	10,538.75
Ministry Expenses	\$	712.07
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	19,902.95
Assessments	\$	7,832.00
Other Expenses	\$	668.76
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>70,343.78</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>35,805.37</b>

## PARISH MISSION APPEAL

On September 10 and 11 we will host Paulist Missionaries for their mission appeal. Please be generous in your support.

## PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish breakfast organized by the Knights of Columbus will take place on September 11, from 9 to 11:30am at the Cathedral Hall.

## ORGAN RECITAL

Join us for an organ recital by Iowa-native Simon Pick. The recital will take place at 2pm on Sunday, September 11 at the Cathedral. Free admittance.

## LADIES LUNCH

Thursday, September 15, at 1pm at IHOP.

## BLUE MASS

Join us for our Blue Mass, in which we'll pray for and honor men and women in law enforcement. It will take place at noon on Thursday, September 29. A luncheon for law enforcement personnel and families will follow, for which we ask that you RSVP at [info@sccathedral.org](mailto:info@sccathedral.org).

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR WHITE MASS

On October 18 we will pray for all medical personnel at our noon Mass. This Mass is traditionally called a White Mass because of the white coats worn by doctors and nurses.

# KNIGHTS CORNER



**MONTHLY MEETING** – Thursday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral Hall.

**PARISH BREAKFAST** – Sunday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9-11:30 am in the Cathedral Hall.

**CAN DRIVE** – Next drive Sat. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. 12 drop sites across Sioux City. Helps Camp High Hopes & Food Bank of Siouxland (including Mary's

Choice & the Soup Kitchen).

**TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVES** – Money raised this year will go to Mid-Step Services.

**WOOD PLAQUES** – Our Christian themed wood plaques make for a great gift (\$25 each) and supports our council efforts.

**STATE KOF C OFFICERS WEEKLY OPEN DESK** – All Knights are welcome to meet our state officers virtually – Wednesdays at 8 PM. Register at <https://www.iowakofc.org/calendar>

**JOIN US** – Inviting all Catholic men ≥ 18 years to join us. 1<sup>st</sup> year membership waived with code “PSEUNTJENS”. [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)

**CONTACT** – Check out our Facebook page for activities and updates “*Knights of Columbus Council 743 USA*”. Email: [KofC743USA@gmail.com](mailto:KofC743USA@gmail.com). Phone: English - Noel 806-316-7628/ Brent 712-490-0410, Spanish - Osbaldo 712-501-0835.



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# CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV, Rector  
Very Rev. Andrew Galles, VF, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Travis Crotty, In Residence

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## MASS SCHEDULE

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

## CONFESSIONS

**MON.-SAT.:** 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*  
**MON.-FRI.:** 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
**SATURDAY:** 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*  
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
**SUNDAY:** 8:30 am Cathedral *Spanish*  
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*  
10:00 am Cathedral *English*  
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*  
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

**ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:**  
5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*  
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
**THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:**  
7:30 am St. Joseph *English*  
11:00 am St. Joseph *Vietnamese*  
12:00 pm Cathedral *English*  
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
7:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

**SUNDAY:** 8:00 am-8:20 am Cathedral  
8:00 am-8:20 am St. Joseph  
8:00 am-8:20 am St. Boniface  
**MON.-FRI.:** 4:30 pm-5:15 pm Cathedral  
**FRIDAY:** 11:30 am-11:50 am Cathedral  
**SATURDAY:** 3:00 pm-3:45 pm St. Boniface  
5:00 pm-5:45 pm Cathedral

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

## SUNG VESPERS

**SUNDAY:** 4:00 pm Cathedral *English*

## OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY, TUESDAY,**  
**THURSDAY, FRIDAY:** 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
**WEDNESDAY:** 10:00 am-1:00 pm  
2:00 pm-6:00 pm

**HOLIDAYS:** 9:00 am Cathedral *Bilingual*