



St. Francis Borgia

Roman Catholic Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020



SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” - Jn 14:2

Parish Information

Administrator: Rev. Damien Wee
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Deacon: Jeff Zurek
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Sunday School: Shawna Adams

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Phone: 402.426.3823

Web: www.stfrancisborgia.org

Email: office@stfrancisborgia.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-Noon

Sacramental Emergencies Only: Please call the Parish Office and press “2”

Mass Schedule

Monday-Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Friday at 7:00 a.m.

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

(10 a.m. Mass livestreamed)

Confessions: Thursdays 6:00-7:00 p.m.

(temporarily moved to the Education Building)

Parish Mission Statement

As the Parish families of St. Francis Borgia of Blair, Nebraska, we are a faith community united in Christ by a common bond to the Roman Catholic Church. Our words and actions are a reflection of Christ’s presence among us. We manifest God’s work through our active participation in spiritual, educational, liturgical and service acts directed at bringing Christ to all.

John 15: Jesus says “love one another as I have loved you.”

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Mother's Day! On this very special day when families would usually gather together to celebrate the gift of mothers, we continue to pray for an end to this pandemic. This has certainly been uncertain times for everyone. Yet, it is during times like these that God pours down His many graces and blessings even more!

As you probably know by now, public Mass at our parish has been postponed for one more week because of the directives of the local health department. As of the writing of this column, we are scheduled to resume public Mass at the church on Monday, May 11 for the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We continue to livestream our Mass in a mostly empty church for another Sunday. I am very much looking forward to the day when everyone will be able to come back together like before. It will probably be a while yet before that happens. In the meantime, those who plan on coming for Holy Mass will have to do so with social distancing and other precautions in place.

Many of you have shared with me how much you have missed coming to church for Holy Mass. Many of you have also shared how much you miss receiving Jesus in His Most Holy Eucharist. We are trying to begin public Masses as soon as possible. Yet, we need to do this very carefully, as we want everyone to be safe. At this moment, some people should not be coming to church.

Who are those who should stay at home for now? Those who are sick (not only with COVID-19), the elderly, those with a weakened immune system, those who have come in contact with someone who had/has COVID-19, and those who do not yet feel comfortable coming back to church.

Archbishop Lucas has granted an extension to the dispensation for the Sunday Mass and Holy Day Mass obligations until the end of May. We will continue to livestream Holy Masses on Facebook. There have been requests to livestream Holy Mass on YouTube as well. We looked into it and we are not able to livestream Mass on both platforms simultaneously.

Please note that for public Mass this coming Monday, the Social Hall will be used for a blood drive. As such, seating with social distancing will be limited to the main body of the church and the overflow area. However, by Tuesday, the Social Hall will be fully arranged so that parishioners will be able to spread out even more. Trained ushers will be available to help us out.

Please kindly follow the ushers' instructions and sit where they take you, even if that may not be your usual seat. By cooperating with the ushers, we will be able to maximize the number of people we are able to have in the church with social distancing. Most likely, families will be seated in the pews and individuals will be seated on the chairs.

The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. You can also use gloves if you would like. However, the gloves must be removed before you receive Holy Communion. (This is a slight modification from the directives given out last week.)

I would like to invite you, if you feel comfortable, to join us for weekday Mass. Some parishioners do not know that weekday Mass (with the exception of Holy Days) is usually around 30 minutes.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation. More directives were given in last weekend's bulletin. Please read it, if you haven't yet.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Heavenly Mother, continue to lead and guide us closer to Jesus, our Risen Lord.

To Jesus through Mary,
Father Damien



Pray for one another

If there are any additions to, or removals from the prayer chain, please call Jane Gramke Stevens 402.278.2652

Malaki Casey
Betty Martin
Mary Beckman
LaVon Kettler
Lillie Flynn
David Shumaker
Chris Stevens-Gill
Megan Sorensen
Sharon Allen
Amy Murray
Viola Michrina
Gavin McCoy
Mike Kult
Angela Howard
Mary Nelson
Sherry McBride
G. & F. Marek family
Troy McCandless
Mary Ann Wenzl
Eric Sorensen
Mike Hoefler
Grace Sorsoli
Helen Herman
Vince Kavanaugh
Jason Smith
Judy Quest
Kevin Mann
Nathan Kocmik
Sherry Pruss
Mary C Beckman
Jerry Wilke
Barbara Rican
Luke Kollars
Phil Thomas
Gordon C Gladdon
Andrea Dickerson
Shitra Mickerjee
Jack Comstock
Kasey Comstock
Kevin Clarke

Our Lady of Fatima Miracle



The story begins in the village of Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917. On that fateful day near that tiny village, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, appeared to three young peasant children: Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia; ages 10, 9 and 7. As was the custom, these youngsters were tending their family's sheep when "a Lady all in white, more brilliant than the sun... indescribably beautiful," standing above a bush, appeared to the youngsters.

From May through October 1917, the Lady appeared and spoke to the children on the 13th day of each month.

News of these apparitions began to spread throughout the region. The children recounted that the Virgin told them that God had sent her with a message for every man, woman, and child living in the century. She promised that God would grant peace to the entire world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed. While many people believed the children had actually seen the Virgin, many others discounted the children's story, subjecting them to much derision and ridicule. When it became known the Lady would visit the children for the last time on October 13, 1917, and had promised a sign that would convince the world she had appeared, many pilgrims made plans to attend.

Though the region had been subjected to three days of torrential downpour, nearly 70,000 people journeyed through the heavy rain and mud to the place of the previous apparitions to witness the predicted miracle. Many were scornful, unbelievers whose sole intent was to discredit the children's stories.

Suddenly the "clouds separated...and the sun appeared between them in the clear blue, like a disk of white fire." The people could look at the sun without blinking and while they gazed upward, the huge ball began to "dance". The huge fireball whirled rapidly with dizzy and sickening speed, flinging out all sorts of brilliant colors that reflected on the faces of the crowds. The fiery ball continued to gyrate in this manner three times, then seemed to tremble and shudder, and plunge in a mighty zigzag course toward the earth. The crowd was terrified, fearing this was the end of the world.

However, the sun reversed course and, retracing its zigzagging course, returned to its normal place in the heavens. All of this transpired in approximately ten minutes. After realizing they were not doomed, the crowd began ecstatically laughing, crying, shouting and weeping. Many discovered their previously drenched clothing to be perfectly dry.

After what has become to be known as "The Miracle of the Sun," the children were grilled many, many times, about what they had seen and been told. Their story never changed. The heart of Our Lady's message to the world is contained in what has become known as the "Secret," which she confided to the children in July 1917. The "Secret" actually consists of three parts. The first part of the "Secret" was a frightening vision of hell, "where the souls of poor sinners go," and contained an urgent plea from Our Lady for acts of prayer and sacrifice to save souls, with particular emphasis on praying of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The second part of the "Secret" specifically prophesied the outbreak of World War II and contained the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communists' totalitarianism.

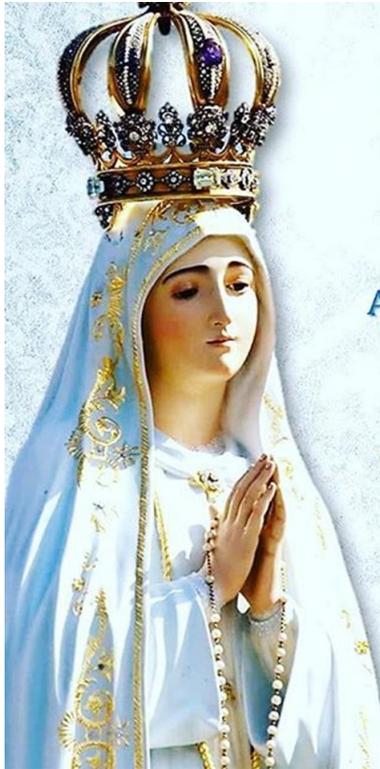
The third part was not revealed until 2000. Its revelation coincided with the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta. It did not contain any striking or cataclysmic prediction, but, instead, the vision supported and affirmed the immense suffering endured by witnesses of the faith in the last century of the second millennium. Sister Lucia, the surviving member of the Fatima trio, confirmed that in the vision "the Bishop clothed in white," who prays for all the faithful, is the Pope. As he makes his way with great difficulty towards the Cross amid the corpses of those who were martyred (bishops, priests, men and women religious and many lay people), he too falls to the ground, apparently dead, under a hail of gunfire. It is possible that the vision predicted the 1981 attack on Pope John Paul II's life. The Pope has always credited the Virgin for his survival. Or it may be a portrayal of the Church's continued struggle against secularism and anti-Christian movements and a continuing call to prayer, sacrifice and devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Sacrificial Giving

Thank you for your continued financial support of our parish of St. Francis Borgia. We appreciate your generosity, especially in this difficult time. Your sacrificial giving helps us to be able to continue to pay our monthly bills, and supports the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church here in Blair. You can mail your donation to the Parish Office or donate online. If you would like to donate online, you can do it easily and safely through the Archdiocese at: archomaha.org/offertory/

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

To keep our parish staff safe and healthy, most are working remotely from home. We will be checking e-mails and voicemails. If you would like to leave a voicemail for any of us, please call the Parish Office at 402.426.3823, choose the extension for the staff you are trying to reach, and leave a voicemail message.



**MAY 13:
OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

**“Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. And after each decade say the following prayer:
‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of Thy mercy.’”**

- Our Lady to the 3 children of Fatima

- Catholics striving for Holiness -

Prayer for Mothers

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of our Mothers! Thank You that our Mothers always believe in us, no matter what. Thank You that they always trust, always hope, and always care. They always love us, just like You!



Please bless our Mothers with the unmistakable gift of Your love, O Lord. May each of them feel Your love in their hearts, Your peace in their minds, and Your joy in their spirits.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, we ask You to refresh our Mothers and fill them again with Your Holy Spirit. May their families surround them and may their children rise up and call them blessed. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Livestreaming on Facebook at facebook.com/stfrancisborgiablair/

Knights of Columbus Food Drive



Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, St. Francis Borgia collected 809 pounds of food and \$410 in cash donations for the Washington County Food Pantry!

To our Knights of Columbus men, we thank you for your generosity of time and talent in collecting and delivering this wonderful donation to the Food Pantry!



Monday, May 11 <i>Marian Kelley †</i>	8 a.m. Mass
Tuesday, May 12 <i>Hyland Family</i>	8 a.m. Mass
Wednesday, May 13 <i>Dennis & Valerie Ng</i>	8 a.m. Mass
Thursday, May 14 <i>Judy Poore †</i>	8 a.m. Mass
Friday, May 15 <i>Vincent & Therese Wee</i>	7 a.m. Mass
Saturday, May 16 <i>Gary & Jeanne Hall Wedding Anniversary</i>	5 p.m. Mass
Sunday, May 17 <i>Parishioners of St. Francis Borgia Tom Reising †</i>	8 a.m. Mass 10 a.m. Mass